

UNLV

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2016

+ TEACHING:
THE END OF
BUSYWORK

+ ALUM OF
THE YEAR:
DR. TONY
ALAMO

+ GREAT
WORKS:
THE DISEASE
DETECTIVE

The Everything is Awesome Issue

Building Our Dream Campus

How being part of a team is growing our campus, spurring economic development, and moving us up to the Top Tier

ON THE COVER:

Alumnus Alex
Andres (p31)
built the Lego
models in this issue
[Courtesy of Legoland
California Resort]

Another Step Closer

7 The UNLV School of Medicine passes a big test on its way toward full accreditation.

New Digs

10 Go inside baseball's Anthony and Lyndy Marnell III Clubhouse.

The End of Busy Work

16 UNLV proves even small changes can boost academic performance, especially for first-generation students.

Boulevard of Bristling Dreams

22 After years of recession, UNLV construction projects have kicked into high gear. But we aren't walking this street alone.

Hometown Hub

28 Dr. Tony Alamo's wildly varied career started with a simple realization: He'd misdiagnosed UNLV.

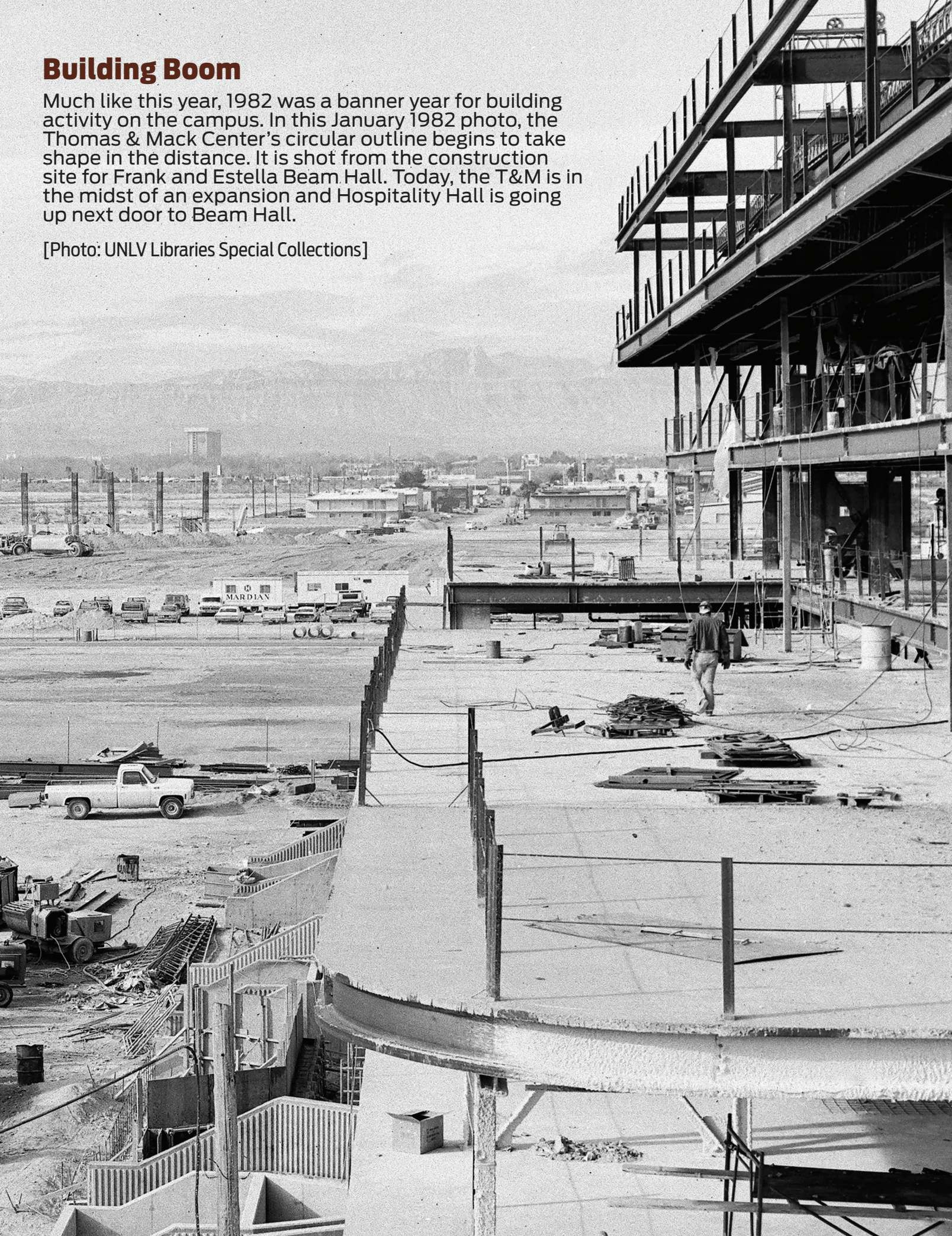
- 2** PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 3** VOICES
- 4** THE FLASHLIGHT
- 10** SPORTS
- 12** RESEARCH
- 14** MY THOUGHTS
- 28** CLASS NOTES
- 40** THE BACK STORY



Building Boom

Much like this year, 1982 was a banner year for building activity on the campus. In this January 1982 photo, the Thomas & Mack Center's circular outline begins to take shape in the distance. It is shot from the construction site for Frank and Estella Beam Hall. Today, the T&M is in the midst of an expansion and Hospitality Hall is going up next door to Beam Hall.

[Photo: UNLV Libraries Special Collections]



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Growing Together

You'll spot an important theme in the stories throughout this issue:

Partnership. Building community partnerships is one of the key goals under our Top Tier strategic plan.

Our cover story explores the role of public-private partnerships in enhancing our campus environment. In March alone, we celebrated our physical growth with three major events: The opening of the Anthony and Lyndy Marnell III Baseball Clubhouse; the expansion and renovation of the Thomas & Mack Center; and the groundbreaking for Hospital-ity Hall, the new academic building for the Harrah Hotel College. All of these projects were made possible through strong relationships with our alumni, state leaders, and both corporate and individual donors.

But public-private partnerships extend well beyond facilities. Two excellent examples of how these partnerships support the economic development are discussed on pages 12 and 14. Some further recent examples:

- We have partnered with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) to launch a community effort to support the presidential debate that will be held on our campus Oct. 19. We would not have been able to bring this educational and international event to Southern Nevada without the resources and special event expertise of the LVCVA.
- The College of Education brought together more than 250 educators, policymakers, and community leaders for the first Summit on Nevada Education to follow through on the opportunities to collaborate to improve our schools in the wake of the 2015 legislative session, which Gov. Brian Sandoval had declared "the education session."
- We renewed our collaboration with Brookings Mountain West. It augments our own urban planning programs with the high-quality and independent research of the Brookings Institution to help the region grow in robust and sustainable ways.
- Through the HUNDRED Plan, a team from the School of Architecture's Downtown Design Center is working with private residents and local officials to redevelop Las Vegas' historic Westside.
- We launched the International Center for Gaming Regulation, a first-of-its-kind resource for independent education, research, and training programs for governments and regulatory leaders from around the world. It was launched with support from our governor; our Legislature; and such private sponsors as Wynn Resorts, Gaming Laboratories International, and the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers.

I am honored and humbled to serve as UNLV's president during this phenomenal time, and am especially proud of how our campus community, the Nevada System of Higher Education leaders, and community partners have come together to help further our progress. While there is much work ahead, I believe we will achieve our aspirations — together.

Len Jessup

UNLV President



President Len Jessup at the groundbreaking ceremony for the University Gateway project, Jan. 12.

Learn more about the Top Tier plan: unlv.edu/toptier

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QUOTABLE >

“The next time you criticize media, the next time you write off millennials, the next time you think a group of public university students can’t take on a system littered with problems, take a trip to Las Vegas and chat with the young professionals at the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. If these students are the ones we’re wagering our future on, I’ll take the over.”

— From “Is the media letting you down lately? Your odds look good in Las Vegas” by John Hudak, deputy director of the Center for Effective Public Management at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. As a visiting scholar, he spent a couple days in lectures and was interviewed by students on the UNLV-TV show *The Scramble 508*.

“Dr. (Ramona) Denby, you are the glue to creating opportunities for our vulnerable children’s future hope. Thank you for being a true social worker who lives by our core values. Thank you for everything you do for our community, social workers, mental health professionals and people in Las Vegas. You ensure that our lives matter.”

— A comment by Las Vegas psychologist Yangcha Crabb on “Despair Interrupted,” a story profiling social work professor Ramona Denby. Read more about the past winner of the Harry Reid Research Award online at unlv.edu/news.



Honorable Mention

Ellen DeGeneres gave UNLV a shout out when she came to town to film the March 2 episode of her talk show. Her tweet launched a flurry of [@UNLV](https://twitter.com/UNLV) mentions and grabbed 16,400 Twitter engagements, 771 retweets, and 3,288 likes. It also brought out a couple of laments from UNR and San Diego State students about missing out. Our undergraduate admissions crew used the moment to promote the perks of going to college in Las Vegas and posted this great picture of hotel administration major **Morgan Helling** on Instagram.

About that cover ...

A line from *The Lego Movie* theme song came to mind while working on this issue: “Everything is awesome when you’re part of a team.”

Last year, alumnus Alex Andres submitted a Class Note about landing his dream job as a Lego master builder. That’s a pretty darn unique job title, so we had to do a full profile on him (page 31). As luck would have it, we also were working on the feature story about



campus construction — and grumbling about the fact we had no buildings to photograph. Without even realizing we had a Lego builder in our midst, campus photographer R. Marsh Starks threw out an idea: How about building some kind of model instead of using the usual renderings?

Sheepishly, we asked Andres. He replied with a hearty “Yes,” telling us he’d love to give back to his alma mater. In the midst of a big project for Legoland, he squeezed our request into his workload. It took him 12 hours to design the models featured in this issue and then another 24 to actually build them.

Our thanks to Alex and the public relations office at Legoland California Resort for being a fun part of our team for this issue. — *Cate Weeks*

Got a unique job? We’d love to learn more about it: Submit your class note at unlv.edu/classnotes

unlv.edu/news

The **UNLV News Center** will keep you connected to the campus in between issues of *UNLV Magazine*. In addition to feature articles, you’ll find videos, slideshows, and links to events. Sign up for its weekly newsletter: news.unlv.edu/newsletters.



Debate, Vegas Style

You had to know that when our campus was picked to host the final presidential debate of the 2016 campaign season, organizers would be bringing some showmanship to this show. In January, UNLV and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority hosted a kickoff rally to build community support for the event. The Oct. 19 debate is expected to draw about 2,500 media representatives and attract millions of eyes to our campus. There will be plenty of opportunities for campus and community participation through volunteering, watch parties, public lectures, and special debate-related courses this year. Visit unlv.edu/2016debate to keep up.

Spirit on Display

BY AMY BOUCHARD

In true Rebel spirit, UNLV led the way to develop the first specialty license plate program in Nevada. The year was 1993 and UNLV was looking for a way to fund scholarships and encourage fans.

The late Fred C. Albrecht (see Obituaries, page 38) did his research before testifying at a hearing of the state Senate Committee on Transportation on May 25, 1993, as executive director of UNLV Alumni Relations: "Pennsylvania State has sold over 11,000 license plates, Alabama has sold over 8,000 license plates, Arizona State has sold over 3,400 license plates, the University of Arizona has sold over 3,100 license plates, and the University of Iowa has sold over 1,300 license plates." *Why shouldn't UNLV?*

Albrecht and UNLV athletics staff member Sheila Strike worked closely with Nevada legislators, the Nevada Highway Patrol, and staff at University of Nevada, Reno to generate support for the program. Bob Miller, Nevada's governor at the time, recently said, "It was a creative way to raise funds for both the state and the universities."

The bill was approved in July 1993 and the Nevada DMV began issuing plates later that year.

REDESIGN & CHALLENGE

From 1993 to 2010, the UNLV license plate featured the mountain man version of the mascot designed by Mike Miller and blue lettering, simply because that was the state standard at the time. In 2010, the Alumni Association and UNLV athletics worked closely with Nevada DMV and Nevada Highway Patrol to update the plate. The UNLV logo



was swapped out for the more fan-friendly Hey Reb! head and the tagline "Go Rebels!" was added. The blue lettering, which led to some visual mixed messages considering UNR's school colors, was changed to black.

Since its inception, the UNLV license plate program has raised more than \$1.5 million for UNLV scholarships. Nevada DMV reports that 5,864 UNLV license plates are on the road today – that's 34 percent higher than in 2012. But that's not high enough for the first Rebel ever to cross UNLV's commencement stage.

Jon Cobain, '64 BS Business Administration, has challenged fellow alumni to put their spirit on display. He will match the initial \$25 donation collected by the Nevada DMV for each new UNLV license plate registered, up to 4,000 license plates, over the next two years. Because of Cobain's gift, the license plate fund will grow significantly.

More info: Find out how to get your own plate at www.UNLVplate.org.

DON'T MISS IT

Rodeo Time: Cheer on the Rebels when the West Coast Regional Finals Rodeo returns to town. The postseason is on the line for UNLV students in nine different events, including bull riding, steer wrestling, team roping, and barrel racing. Every contestant is vying for a top 3 seed to secure a spot at the 2016 College National Finals Rodeo. The Rebel Rodeo Team is once again a strong contender. May 6-7. South Point Equestrian Center.

Great American Musical: Brush up your Shakespeare with *Kiss Me Kate*, a hilarious, toe-tapping musical comedy featuring some of the best works by acclaimed composer-lyricist Cole Porter. April 29-May 7. Judy Bayley Theatre.

The Calendar

For details on these events and a full listing of activities, visit unlv.edu/calendar

Rebel Business Network: The Alumni Association and UNLV Libraries is offering an ongoing networking and workshop series for business leaders. The events are free with multiple dates throughout the year.

No Longer Unseen

Anny Ayala Ortega, an art major, didn't see much at first in the Ellsworth Kelly lithographs now on display at the Barrick Museum. "Then I saw things I see in everyday life," Ortega said. One reminded her of a laptop, another of tombstones. "I'm not sure why." The emerging gallery-goer thought about it. A laptop is key to her work as a graphic designer. The tombstone was a bit like "death to the eyes." She points to her glasses and said, "I'm always afraid in the future of losing my eyesight." That's deep meaning coming out from the hard shapes — yet, not far from how Kelly himself approached his work. Along with Kelly's works, the Barrick is showing "Unseen Selections: Las Vegas Art Museum Collection" with works by Frank Stella, Robert Motherwell, Roy Lichtenstein, and others. Through May 14. — *Frank Fuentes*



BRIEFLY
.....



New provost

UNLV has named Diane Chase its new executive vice president and provost. She most recently served as a vice provost at the University of Central Florida (UCF), the nation's second largest university and one that UNLV often examines as it plans its own growth.

As UNLV's chief academic officer, she will work with President Len Jessup to implement UNLV's ambitious Top Tier strategic plan to rise as a public university in research, education, and community impact. Much like UCF, Chase noted, "UNLV is a young, energetic university with big aspirations, impactful research, diverse and talented students, and high-quality faculty and staff dedicated to making a difference."

For the past 32 years, she has co-directed archaeological excavations at Caracol, Belize, with her husband and fellow anthropologist Arlen Chase. He will be joining UNLV's anthropology department in the fall.

Back in the Sun

UNLV was just one of 16 teams picked worldwide for the prestigious 2017 U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon. The contest challenges students to design, build, and operate homes that are energy-efficient, affordable, and innovative.

UNLV's entry is a 964-square-foot, renewably powered home designed to help residents age in place. It will feature emerging technology in home and health monitoring so older adults and those with disabilities can stave off institutionalized care and remain in their homes.

In 2013, with guidance from faculty and industry mentors, Team Las Vegas placed first in the U.S. and second in the world in the closest race in the

competition's history. More than 60 students were on the team and nearly all are now employed in their chosen fields. Several are returning as mentors to the 2017 team.

"Solar Decathlon was a real-life project where we learned to work with people from other fields, understand how they think and what they specialize in," said Alexia Chen, a UNLV architecture grad and project manager of the 2013 team.

"We learned to keep an open mind, to respect each other's expertise and different perspectives, and to grow together as a team." All are skills necessary in today's workforce, she noted.

— TONY ALLEN

AND THE TOP HONORS GO TO ...

CASEY BARBER

2016 Regents Scholar - Undergraduate



This Honors College senior is racking up an extraordinary number of research and service experiences as she pursues a bachelor's degree in public health. She already has assisted in in-depth investigations of lead hazards in homes, studied abroad in Ireland, and spearheaded an initiative to assist elderly homeowners with minor, but potentially life-saving, repairs. She is working now in UNLV's Global Health and Implementation Science lab to research mother-to-child HIV transmission.



ELIZABETH "LIBBY" HAUSRATH

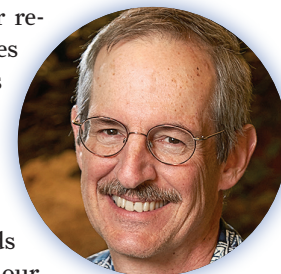
Regents Rising Researcher Award

This geoscience professor was recognized for her early-career accomplishments in research on the soil and geochemistry of Mars. She is interpreting data from NASA's Mars Exploration Program to investigate how soil and water might once have interacted on our planetary neighbor. She was among the 14 researchers NASA picked to offer their input into design of the Mars 2020 rover mission. Back on Earth, she's also studying algae, minerals, and microorganism interactions in snow.

LAWRENCE "LARS" WALKER

Regents Researcher Award

This life sciences professor captured the Nevada System of Higher Education's most prestigious award for researchers. Walker studies how communities of plants grow following disturbances both natural and manmade — exploding volcanoes, melting glaciers, or abandoned mines and roads — and how we can help our ecosystems manage hazards. His work has attracted \$17 million in grant funding and his 133 peer-reviewed publications have been cited 11,000 times.



More: Read their full stories at unlv.edu/news



White House Champ

Computer scientist Andreas Stefik's love of video games and music blended together to improve programming technologies for the visually impaired. In January, he was one of just nine people named a White House Champion of Change for their work to improve their communities.

Stefik is the inventor of Quorum, a programming language based on experiments on human behavior. With grants from the National Science Foundation, he established the first national educational infrastructure to help visually impaired students learn computer science.

His work comes from tinkering with audio files and song compositions. In graduate school, he and a professor began adding sound into programming environments. "We began to find that there is a rich community of blind and visually impaired people who either wanted to learn programming or were already professionals. Some of the technologies they had to use, just to get started, left something to be desired."

Unfortunately, the award ceremony collided with 36 hours of East Coast blizzards. It took a series of flights, train rides, and a rented SUV to make it to the White House.



Another step closer

THE UNLV SCHOOL OF MEDICINE recently passed a big test on its way toward welcoming its first class of students in 2017. The national accrediting body for allopathic medical education granted the school a site visit after reviewing its planning documents. That means the school officially went from applicant to candidate in the accreditation process.

The accreditation team will spend three days this summer surveying the school's progress and then developing a full report for its membership consideration. If the school secures the membership's approval of preliminary accreditation, UNLV will be able to start recruiting this fall.

Dr. Ellen Cosgrove, vice dean of academic affairs and education, noted some key points about the school's curriculum:

1. SOUTHERN NEVADA HAS SPECIFIC NEEDS.

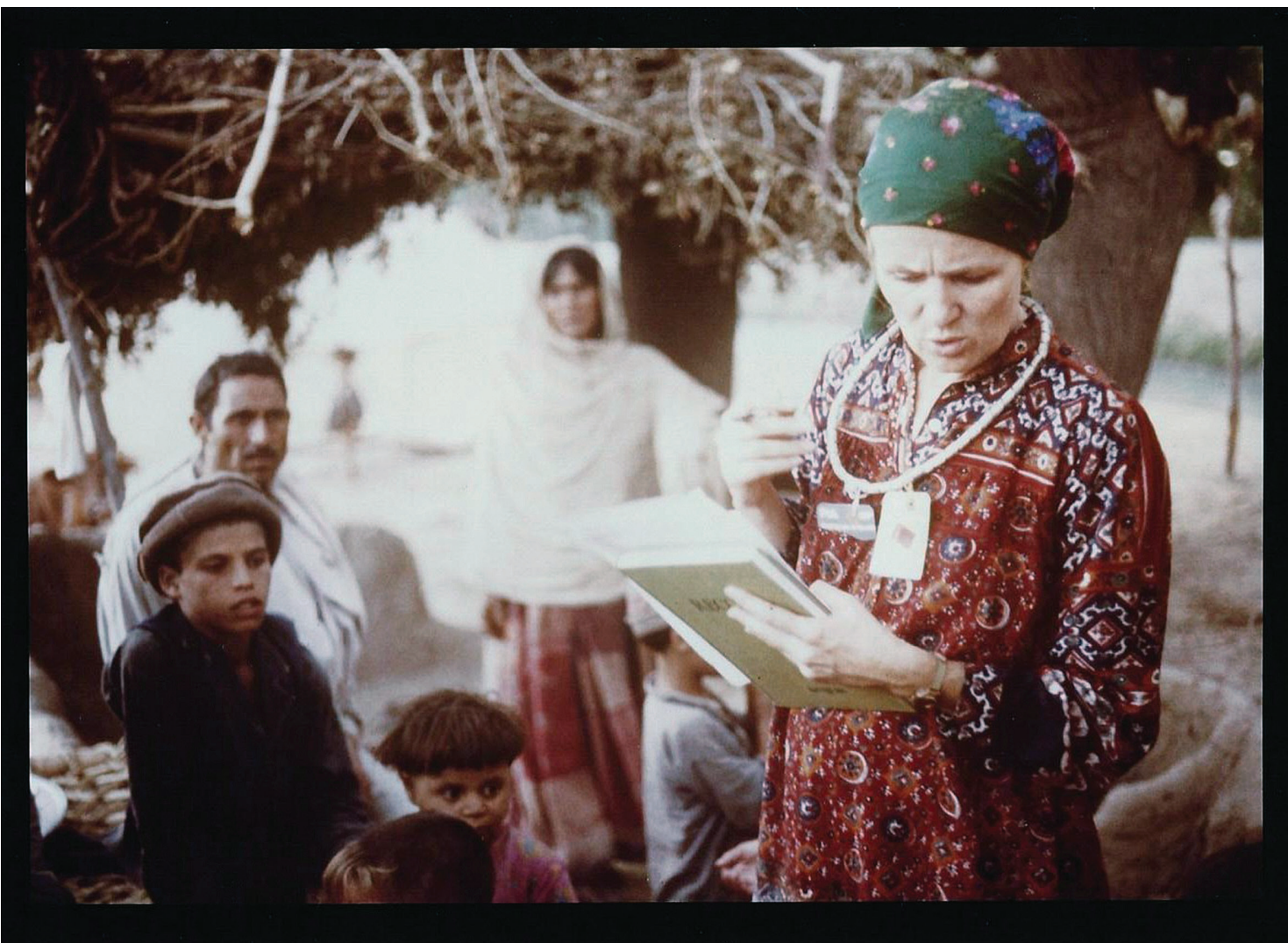
The school's accreditation documents identified five areas of special consideration in our community: homelessness; human trafficking; mental and behavioral health problems; nutrition; and tobacco and other substance abuse/addiction disorders. Dealing with these means, "we need to graduate physicians who have a broad public health perspective and can integrate prevention and community-based interventions into their practices," Cosgrove said.

2. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC CONTENT.

Yes, bedside manner can be taught. Relationships are an important part of practicing medicine, Cosgrove said. "Medical education is about the transformation of an individual into a healer. That's why the new UNLV curriculum incorporates teaching methods that will help students develop and sustain long-term relationships with their patients, their faculty, and their community."

3. LEARNING DOESN'T END AT GRADUATION.

"It was no easy feat, but we've created an innovative curriculum grounded in evidence-based medicine," Cosgrove said. "It's designed specifically to produce highly skilled physicians who value diversity, health equity, and relationships with patients and the community. It's intended to create a lifelong habit of self-directed learning."



Disease Detective

Dr. Mary Guinan's impressive legacy in eradicating diseases, preventing epidemics, and even founding a school

BY CHELSEA SENDGRAFF

What do you do after you have had a hand in eradicating a devastating disease from the face of the earth? Keep on going, according to Dr. Mary Guinan. There's still plenty more work to do.

Ending smallpox during her years as an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) was only the beginning of Guinan's remarkable career. "I thought it such an unbelievably wonderful idea that, by the design of people, you could ac-

tually eliminate a disease that has harmed generations from the beginning of time," Guinan said.

She continued to blaze trails — leading the response to the AIDS epidemic as the CDC's spokesperson, accepting a position as the first female state health officer in Nevada, and founding the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences as its first dean.

WORLD EXPERT

The professor emerita has chronicled her extraordinary adventures into one

12-chapter, 138-page book, *Adventures of a Female Medical Detective*. The idea stemmed from her desire to provide the general public insight into the enigma that is public health.

"I realized that many people just don't fully understand public health," she said. "The only time the general population really hears about it is when something goes wrong, like when there is an outbreak."

But there is so much more to public health — and to Guinan's newly released book. Guinan shares her unabashedly quirky perspective of her involvement in different epidemics and their resolutions. With topics ranging from war zones in Pakistan to an HIV-infected preacher's wife, Guinan's



Over the course of her career in public health, Dr. Mary Guinan has traveled to refugee camps in Pakistan and faced down protests over Centers for Disease Control policies in Atlanta. Opposite: Afghan refugee camp, Pakistan, 1980 (courtesy of Mary Guinan) Left: ACT UP protestors, Dec. 9, 1990 (Georgia State University Special Collections)

book covers a lifetime's worth of fascinating adventures. In one story, Guinan reveals how she enlisted an elephant in her quest to eradicate smallpox in India.

"I would get on the elephant, and it would swim us across the river, take me to the village, and then go back and get all of the things we needed and bring them to us."

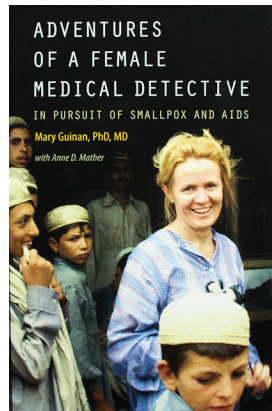
But riding elephants in India was not always the Guinan lifestyle. Born into an immigrant family, she worked herself through both college and medical school. Despite her many years working in the field, the idea of being an expert still seems a bit amazing to Guinan.

"As an epidemiologist, you are among the first to encounter many diseases. You become an expert in diseases no one has ever heard about. You're the first person to see it, so you're the world's expert."

GENDER ROLES

Because many detective accounts are written from the perspective of men, Guinan thought it would be interesting to present a woman's point of view. As her story shows, being born female has proven to be both a blessing and a curse.

In Houston, Texas, the home of NASA, Guinan finished her doctorate with a research focus on blood coagulation. She then decided to enroll in the astronaut program. But luckily for the future of public health, that dream was never realized. "I was working on scientific projects related to issues in space," said Guinan. "But in 1969 when



ADVENTURES OF A FEMALE MEDICAL DETECTIVE: IN PURSUIT OF SMALL POX AND AIDS

Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016

the man went on the moon, women weren't even allowed into the control room — because they would distract the men."

Years later, as the AIDS epidemic emerged, her gender became a benefit. A member of the CDC team that first investigated the disease, she became its spokesperson, appearing on numerous national news shows and infamously being dubbed Dr. Herpes and Dr. Condom. "I got the nicknames because I was in the media saying things that shocked people like 'genital herpes' or 'gonorrhea,'" she said, but "they wanted a woman to talk about sexually transmitted diseases because it seemed more acceptable to the public than a man."

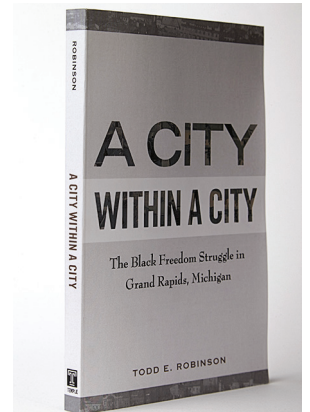
ROYALTIES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Although officially retired, Guinan continues to support the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences as faculty emerita. She is turning the royalties from the book into scholarships in the school. "There is a deadly shortage of epidemiologists," she said, an issue that her gift will work to help solve.

But Guinan hopes that her support is only the beginning. "If Tom Hanks decides to take movie rights, we hope to get a lot more money, but I haven't negotiated that yet," she quipped. Two additional books are also in the pipeline for Guinan: one on hepatitis C and another on childhood leukemia.

More info: Find out about upcoming book talks and signings at unlv.edu/publichealth.

SHORT STORIES



A CITY WITHIN A CITY: THE BLACK FREEDOM STRUGGLE IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Temple University Press, 2013

UNLV history professor

Todd E. Robinson's book offered new context for understanding racial inequity as the country recently grappled with events that motivated the Black Lives Matter movement — so much so that the mayor of Grand Rapids named it the city's 2016 Book of the Year.

Robinson's work is a case study of the civil rights era as it happened in smaller cities — which have been largely ignored by historians. He focused on the struggles involving school integration, employment, and bureaucratic reforms.

In her annual address, Mayor Rosalyn Bliss said, "As we work to better understand the racial disparities that exist in our city, it is important that we look back and that we learn from our past. ... (This book) provides hope for our future."

Robinson is now contributing to UNLV projects that document the experiences of Las Vegas. "The Las Vegas African-American community remains virtually hidden in scholarly literature and certainly so within a comparative light," he said in an interview for *Innovation*, UNLV's research magazine. "We do not know if the struggle for equality in Las Vegas resembles that of Los Angeles, Grand Rapids, or if it presents an entirely new set of issues."



PHOTOS BY **R. MARSH STARKS**

UNLV's baseball teams have a shiny, new home: the 10,000-square-foot Anthony and Lyndy Marnell III Clubhouse. The Marnells led philanthropy efforts for the completely donor-funded \$2.75 million construction project. It replaced the old batting cages along the first base line at Earl E. Wilson Stadium.



THE TWO-STORY COMPLEX INCLUDES THE «TEAM LOCKER ROOM, INDOOR (AIR-CONDITIONED!) BATTING CAGES, WEIGHT ROOM, STUDY CUBICLES, AND A PLAYERS' LOUNGE».



THE SECOND-FLOOR PATIO OFFERS VIEWS OF ROGER BARNSON FIELD AND, IN THE DISTANCE, THE LAS VEGAS STRIP.

2016 MARKS THE 50TH SEASON OF THE UNLV BASEBALL PROGRAM AS A VARSITY SPORT

★ While in 1958 men's basketball, under head coach and athletic director **Michael "Chub" Drakulich**, was the first sport organized at UNLV, baseball was not far behind. It started in 1960 and, oddly enough, was also coached by a very busy Drakulich.

★ **Herb Pryor** pitched UNLV's only perfect game in a 1971 win over Colorado. In 1990, **Brian Boehringer** (see Class Note, page 34), threw the second no-hitter against University of the Pacific. Freshman right-hander **Matt Luca** threw a no-hitter in 2003 against San Diego State.

★ On April 8, 1994, **Gus Kennedy** hit for the "home run cycle" (a solo home run, a home run with one on, a home run with two on, and a grand slam) against New Mexico State. He finished the game 6-for-6 and holds the UNLV single game record for most total bases in a game at 18.

★ The Rebels celebrated their first sellout in program history on Feb. 13, 2015, but fell 2-0 to the No. 23 Nebraska Cornhuskers. The Rebels bounced back and won the series beating the Cornhuskers two games to one. It was the best attended weekend at Earl E. Wilson Stadium in program history.

★ In 2015, senior catcher **Erik VanMeetren** tied an NCAA record for reaching base safely in 18 consecutive plate appearances. He also broke UNLV's record for consecutive hits with 10.

Rivalry Weekend

For just the second time in four decades, the Battle for the Fremont Cannon will be UNLV football's season finale. The Rebels will host archival UNR the Saturday after Thanksgiving — a weekend that always features rivalry games across the country. The UNLV-UNR game, however, has traditionally been held in October.

Last year, in head coach Tony Sanchez's first season, the Rebels beat the Wolf Pack 23-17 in Reno, capturing bragging rights and the Fremont Cannon, one of coolest trophies in college football. UNR leads the rivalry series 24-17.

UNLV opens the season Sept. 1, hosting Jackson State in a Thursday game and then travels to the Rose Bowl to face UCLA on Sept. 10. The 2016 Mountain West Conference Championship game will be Dec. 3 and hosted by the higher ranked team.

In 2017 the Rebels have dates with BYU — in a game rescheduled from 2015 — and national power Ohio State University in Columbus.

2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Sept. 1 | Jackson State |
| Sept. 10 | at UCLA |
| Sept. 17 | at Central Michigan |
| Sept. 24 | Idaho |
| Oct. 1 | Fresno State |
| Oct. 8 | at San Diego State |
| Oct. 15 | at Hawaii |
| Oct. 22 | Colorado State |
| Oct. 29 | at San Jose State |
| Nov. 12 | Wyoming |
| Nov. 18 | at Boise State |
| Nov. 26 | UNR |

Home games in bold



Graduate student John Lukasik's work on a Center for Gaming Innovation project took days instead of weeks, thanks to UNLV's supercomputer.

Living up to its promise

BY RAEGEN PIETRUCHA

When Rob Roy, founder and CEO of the data storage company Switch, asked UNLV a very simple question — “How can we help?” — no one could have imagined the impact it would have on the university and the community. In short order, the answer led to an unprecedented partnership that’s providing UNLV with one of the fastest, most powerful supercomputers ever created, the Intel Cherry Creek.

From facilitating invaluable public-private partnerships to enabling the cutting-edge research that makes all Top Tier institutions shine, the supercomputer has more than delivered on the promises made just a little more than one year ago. And it’s already gotten an upgrade, now making it the Cherry Creek II. Here’s some proof that calling it a game-changer wasn’t just PR hype:

1. EXPEDITING CAMPUS INNOVATION

Cherry Creek has been put to good use by data-hungry faculty from areas you’d expect — like astrophysics, robotics, and health care — but our students are accessing its power too. Harrah Hotel College graduate student John Lukasik thought

his research could lead to a great business idea if only he could get the calculations done quickly. Thanks to Cherry Creek II, Lukasik was able to focus on the answers he needed — namely, the outcomes of 50 million simulated professional football seasons. Working through UNLV’s Center for Gaming Innovation, he completed the

calculations for the sports-wagering game he invented, Scoring Frenzy, in a mere three days with the supercomputer.

“The results of the game’s test run were extremely gratifying, demonstrating the viability of (Lukasik’s) idea,” said Mark Yoseloff, executive director of the gaming innovation center.



THIS JUST IN
.....

Coupling Up ...

IN SPACE: Life on other planets? Planets with close orbital distances may be the key. If a pairing occurred in the right place, then both planets could sustain life — and even help each other along.

UNLV **astrophysicist Jason Steffen** and research partner Gongjie Li from the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics are drawing on NASA's Kepler spacecraft data to explore the galaxy's multihabitable systems.

"(These) systems could have a microbial family tree with roots and branches simultaneously on two different planets," Steffen noted. "Systems like those that we investigated, and moon systems orbiting a habitable-zone giant planet, are among the few scenarios where life — intelligent life in particular — could exist in two places at the same time and in the same system."

WITH DOGS: Turns out, dating might be for the dogs. In a good way. **Anthropologist Peter Gray** collaborated with colleagues at the Kinsey Institute and Rutgers University to survey 1,200 Match.com users. They found that a pet can significantly influence choices, particularly women's choices. Dogs were seen as a "better measure of a potential mate's caregiving capacity." Cats, not so much. An overwhelming number of women and men felt that a relationship could work with a "dog person," fewer said the same about a "cat person."

More: Read the full stories, unlv.edu/news.

Upgrading a Powerhouse

UNLV's Cherry Creek supercomputer already has received several upgrades since it was installed in 2014. Its specs all add up to an astounding throughput capacity for the university, said Joseph Lombardo, executive director of UNLV's National Supercomputing Center. "These upgrades served as force multipliers that ensure the supercomputer can take on as many projects as our researchers can devise."

For the techies, the upgrades included an additional 48 Penguin Computing Relion nodes, each with two Xeon E5-2640v3, 128Gb of RAM and four Intel Xeon Phi 31S1P (with 57 cores each) to complement the original 48 nodes with all their bells and whistles, as well as 24 Intel manufactured nodes with two Xeon E5-2697v2, 192Gb of RAM, and two Intel Xeon Phi 7120P coprocessors (with 61 cores each).

Now dubbed Cherry Creek II, the supercomputer received a boost to 32.47 Tb (terabits) of total memory and total scratch storage of 46.32 Tb from these upgrades and can reach a new theoretical peak speed of 495 TFlops/s (trillion floating-point operations per second).

Cherry Creek II was ranked 394th on the June 2015 Top 500 list, placing UNLV among the top universities in terms of high throughput computing overall. Even more impressive: It accomplished the ranking using only 16,000 of the 26,000 compute cores now available. Lombardo is looking forward to jumping up the list when he runs the performance tests again later this year.

Fast forward: Lukasik was able to bring his idea to the market with ease and speed, and he's in negotiations with prospective partners to release Scoring Frenzy to the public.

2. ATTRACTING NEW RESEARCH DOLLARS

In September, the National Institutes of Health awarded a five-year, \$11.1 million grant to UNLV and the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. The award supports a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence, where researchers will use clinical trials, brain imaging, neuropsychological and behavioral studies, and supercomputing to study Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. It's the first such center in Southern Nevada, and it may not have happened without the supercomputing power.

Cherry Creek II is the primary computational lab for the new Center for Neurodegeneration and Translational Neuroscience (CNTN). The Data Management and Statistical Core, one of several groups working on this research, provides database management and statistical expertise, collects needed information, and provides the central informatics architecture required to support research. Under the guidance of professor Guogen Shan, CNTN's primary biostatistician, clinical trials will be designed and data will be analyzed to help the world better understand both degenerative diseases.

3. FOSTERING ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION EFFORTS

When UNLV received access to the supercomputer, it made an institutional commitment

to fund a dedicated research network — an optimized network designed for high-performance scientific applications rather than general use. UNLV installed the network and connected its supercomputing data centers in the campus' Science and Engineering Building with resources at the Switch SUPERNAP co-location data center across town. Networking bandwidth was strong at 20 gigabits (Gb) per second — twice the speed of the campus's general computing bandwidth — but knowing the demands that high-performance computing can make on resources, UNLV began thinking of ways to further optimize the supercomputing experience.

UNLV reached out to Switch to see what could be done. Switch provided a \$3 million gift in the form of three pairs of "dark cable," a type of high-speed optical fiber that can be used for a variety of applications, to help the university achieve its goal.

However, new networking boxes would be required to take full advantage of the cables' power. Enter another of UNLV's new partners, Cisco, which provided \$730,000 worth of specialized networking equipment to the campus.

Thanks to such public-private partnerships, UNLV was able to increase its networking bandwidth tenfold to 200 Gb per second — a rate not available in the private sector. This not only bolsters UNLV research but positions the university as a potential partner to companies in need of large bandwidths, thereby supporting Nevada's efforts to diversify technology and business.

Lucky for UNLV, Zach Miles can't stomach blood and guts. His much older sister, a pediatric surgeon, had groomed him for medicine. He got a degree in microbiology but then passed out when dissecting animal models. A degree in patent law led to a career helping faculty and students commercialize their breakthroughs. Since he joined UNLV in 2013, patent filings have gone up (from five the year before he got here to 47 last year) and he's had a hand in three startup companies — the first ever to come directly from UNLV's technology transfer program.

'IMPACT IS THE STORY'

Zach Miles, associate vice president for economic development

Las Vegas is different. There's not a lot of, "That'd be great if..." It's, "That'd be great when..."

It doesn't take much to get people to engage here. Once we're past the what, no one gets hung up on the how.

Some people are impressed by dollar figures, but that's not for me. Economic development is about telling the story.

The day you announce a \$100 million deal and have the media cameras watching is awesome, but that's just the beginning. Don't get me wrong — that money matters tremendously to UNLV and the community — but I like to focus on the bigger picture of what it actually achieves — those impacts aren't so easily tied to a dollar figure.

Impact is the story. Impact is where I focus the office. Did we bring new professors into the commercialization process? Did we help launch a new business? Did they hire our students? Is the partnership we started last year leading to something even more? I can give people all sorts of impressive figures, but if I can't put them into the story, they don't have real impact.

Fortunately, UNLV has great stories. We are, literally, helping to cure cancer and prevent amputations in people with diabetes. One researcher has found an antibiotic-free way to improve the health of the chickens that will eventually be on your dinner plate.

I'm also executive director of the UNLV Research Foundation. It's biggest project is developing our Harry Reid Research Park off the 215 beltway. We are in the process of finding a master developer. I'm so excited my head is spinning.

I see it as a melting pot for entrepreneurship and translational research. It's going to include a technology village, as it were, to help startups through an incubator and accelerator. It'll house our offices and provide a public-private interface for UNLV and the community. I can't wait to see the building go up. I can't wait to walk into grand opening and watch the fireworks start happening.

Partnership can be an over-used and abused word. You always come across people who will tell you what they think the university should be doing for them. That's not partnership.

Partnership is when the goals and efforts on both sides align for greatest impact.

In building up this office, I've been very conscious about culture. When I hire, I look for how authentic the candidates' answers are, how they respond to social cues. Do they try to impress more than they try to understand? I can train people for the job, but I can't fix a bad fit.

UNLV can have its challenges given its nature as a state institution. We try to set expectations and be transparent about our process. It can be a long process, but that's changing.

I've learned to undersell. If I tell a company it'll take a week and a half to get signatures on something — even though I think it will take two days — we're all happy when instead it takes three days. They're like, "Great, thanks for pushing it through."

Early in my career I was working with an attorney who wanted to license technology in the energy arena. He was the consummate salesman — had me convinced this was the best thing to happen to that university ever. I did some due diligence but not enough. Turned out he didn't have

enough money for his plans and, even worse, he was very litigious. He's a reminder for any public entity not to give into business's pressure to rush.

You have to take some bets on startups and student ideas, though. That's when it comes back to talent and drive.

For young entrepreneurs, my best advice is on how to take advice: Remember, people who give you advice are not trying to insult you. If they're bothering at all, it means they actually give a rip about what you're doing. You don't have to take it but you better be gracious.

Our economic development office wants to engage more actively with UNLV's alumni. They can and do bring so much to the campus that we want to plug into that excitement and their expertise. We need them as a sounding board, we need them as experts in the industries we're trying to impact.

I wish everyone could see UNLV through my eyes. I wish they could see the stories I do. More than anything, I wish they could feel what I do when someone says, "This would not have happened but for UNLV."



The biggest piece of bunk is when someone tells you, "You haven't put in enough time yet; wait your turn." I don't think age and experience necessarily factor into success.



THE END OF

UNLV PROVES EVEN SMALL CHANGES CAN BOOST ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE,

WHEN ALEXANDER CRONK TOOK RENAISSANCE ART HISTORY last fall, the sophomore more immediately noticed something very different. The rationale for every lesson was extremely detailed. His instructor explained explicitly how he would be evaluated on assignments and even gave a reason for why a certain teaching strategy was being used. She told him what knowledge he'd learn and what skills he would practice by doing the work. It was a first.

A self-described "B-student," Cronk earned an A in the class. "I have never had a class that was so organized and the professor was so committed to her organization and (explaining) the syllabus," Cronk said. That added clarity made all the difference.

HIS PROFESSOR WAS MARY-ANN WINKELMES.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 BUSY WORK

ESPECIALLY FOR FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS. ||||| BY BRIAN SODOMA

TEACHING TRANSPARENTLY

Winkelmes is also UNLV's coordinator for instructional development and research as well as the principal investigator for the Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) in Higher Education program, an award-winning national project headquartered at UNLV.

She brought the project to UNLV in 2013 after starting it at the University of Chicago in 2010 and expanding it at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It's now applied to more than 300 courses at 27 institutions. Its goal is to explore how small instructional changes could improve student success in a class and ultimately lead to jumps in student retention and graduation rates.

Learning to teach takes considerable time and practice, Winkelmes explained. Between research responsibilities and the need to stay on top of changes in their fields, finding extra time to improve teaching methods can be nearly impossible for many a professor; thus the imperative to focus on small changes.

A growing dialogue among professors, with input from students, eventually revealed a greater need for students

to understand why a lesson is being taught, how they are being graded, and which learning methods are best suited for a particular concept. Winkelmes said it's important for students to think about *how* they learn and faculty to think about *why* they teach a concept a certain way.

Today, more than 50 UNLV instructors are using transparency methods in onsite, online, and hybrid classes, most of them in first-year college courses. "We know that, nationally, most of the students who drop out of college do so in their first year," Winkelmes emphasized.

Instructors start by redesigning a small piece of their course (sometimes as little as a couple of take-home assignments), then surveying students at the end of the semester. But unlike traditional instructor evaluations, these surveys prompt students to reflect on their learning experiences in the course, and they're asked about the moments they felt their particular learning style was well served.

The results are compiled with responses from more than 13,000 students in hundreds of college courses across the country, providing an invaluable warehouse of information about teaching strategies. UNLV's Greenspun

NAME: Mary-Ann Winkelmes



College of Urban Affairs is helping to build a database in collaboration with Applied Analysis, a private research company. It will enable this data to be shared with education researchers across the country and around the world.

“To me, transparency is advocating for more social justice in higher education,” she explained. “Our data shows that transparent teaching is helpful for all students, and the effects are especially beneficial for first-generation and minority populations — students whose college graduation rates are now about half that of their white and Asian peers nationally.”

That’s a major selling point at UNLV, which ranks as the second most diverse campus in the nation, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. More than half of all undergraduate students report being part of a racial or ethnic minority, and in 2015, UNLV became the first four-year institution in Nevada to meet the U.S Department of Education’s definition of a Hispanic Serving Institution. The university also meets Minority Serving requirements for Asian-American, Native American, and Pacific-Islander populations.

In a recent study, UNLV partnered with the Association

of American Colleges & Universities to analyze the learning gains of more than 1,100 students and 35 faculty spanning 70 different courses at seven Minority-Serving Institutions across the country. The instructors incorporated just two transparently designed assignments in a term, but saw large benefits for underrepresented, first-generation, and low-income students, including:

- increased academic confidence
- improved sense of belonging
- greater self-perceived mastery of the skills that a 2015 Hart Research Associates report says employers value most highly

Researchers already have tied increases in confidence and sense of belonging to increased student persistence and retention rates, Winkelmes noted.

THE BIGGER GOAL

Katharine Johnson, UNLV’s Academic Success Center coordinator, teaches a first-year seminar targeted at stu-

“SOMETIMES, COLLEGE COURSES WEED OUT OUTLIER THINKERS — AND THAT NEEDS TO STOP. A LACK OF PRIOR EXPOSURE (TO UNIVERSITY-LEVEL EXPECTATIONS) IS NOT A REASON TO EXCLUDE.”



dents who are undecided about a major. It encourages them to explore career fields while also learning study skills.

“At 18, some still haven’t bought into college, which is a pretty normal way to feel. They’re here, but they’re still not sure why or where they’ll go,” she said. “Our job is to get them into an academic college where they can successfully complete their education in a timely manner and find what they love to do.”

With the help of the transparency program for the past two years, Johnson has been redesigning her assignments and has placed a greater emphasis on the larger goal of the class. “It really gives the students a sense for why we are asking them to do something. Nothing feels like busy work anymore,” she said. “I don’t get as much pushback, and they really buy into the value of doing things.”

For example, Johnson tweaked a reflection paper assignment she had always used to assess critical thinking skills. She realized she needed to be clearer about what critical thinking skills actually are and why they are important. “(The TILT project) has helped me to better understand why I’m asking students to do something,” she said.

Her changes have led to fielding fewer student questions. “One of my complaints as an instructor is that flood of emails where people are saying they don’t understand it — that has almost completely gone away,” Johnson said.

Professor David Copeland began implementing transparency methods last year in his Psychology 101 class — a course that UNLV administrators have found acts as a bellwether for eventual graduation success. Toward the end of the course, he always had students write a paper on a view or belief that changed over the semester. “I realized they could not accurately remember how they used to think about the topic when they started the class,” he said.

Now, Copeland begins the semester with students reflecting on about 10 different topics so they have a reference

point for the later assignment. “In any course, you can get bogged down in students needing to learn a concept,” he added. “This motivates me to ask: What do I want them to learn or know that will help them three years from now?” It’s more of a focus on skill building now, and we’re teaching them more about how to learn and think.”

This year, the effort to spread transparent teaching and learning practices at UNLV has spread beyond classroom faculty to include staff members in the UNLV Libraries, Academic Success Center, registrar’s office, first-year seminar program, undergraduate advising centers and Division of Undergraduate Education. They, too, are beginning to encourage new students to identify the purposes, tasks, and criteria for their academic work.

TIED TO TOP TIER

In the end, Winklemes noted, the transparency project supports UNLV’s Top Tier efforts by directly impacting goals related to retention rates, student satisfaction, student diversity, and employee job satisfaction. It mitigates the gatekeeper role so many professors take on when they assign a failing grade to bright students not yet adept at learning in a college setting. Too often, an failure early leads to a student dropping out. Helping those students learn how to succeed ensures a greater variety of thinkers will proceed with their studies, Winklemes said, and will eventually influence the top levels of research.

Research breakthroughs “tend to come from a person who was thinking outside the traditional framework. It’s usually outlier thinkers,” Winklemes said. “Sometimes, college courses weed out outlier thinkers — and that needs to stop. A lack of prior exposure (to university-level expectations) is not a reason to exclude.

“This is a more equitable way to teach, and it gives more students a fair shot at succeeding,” she added. ●

Goodbye, North Field

North Field, that patch of grass between Frank and Estella Beam Hall and the Carol C. Harter Classroom Building Complex, has been home to hundreds of student activities year after year. Initially holding athletic fields, it later became a venue for the Black Eyed Peas at Rebelepooza and the annual lighting of our school letters at Premier UNLV. This spring, construction vehicles took over the space to give rise to Hospitality Hall, the new home for the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. But before they rolled in, students held one last party in honor of the field. The party included marshmallow roasting, dancing, and a spray-painting contest among student organizations to turn the grass into a tribute mural.

[Photo: R. Marsh Starks/UNLV Photo Services]





Boulevard of Br

After years of recession, UNLV construction projects have kicked into high gear.



Our little section of Maryland Parkway must leave passersby with a sense of the street's split personality. The west side is dominated by UNLV's impressive, and often massive, modern buildings. Greenspun Hall's tower soars above an array of solar panels. The silver-clad Student Union, with its graphic building wrap, offers a hint of the colorful gathering spaces within. Even Flora Dungan Humanities, though certainly a product of the 1970s aesthetic, such that it was, offers an architectural lesson in

forward-thinking ideas in energy efficiency.

The areas directly surrounding campus, meanwhile, are dotted with aging and inconsistent architecture. Alongside treasured local restaurants, there's some carefully curated design by corporate chains. The sidewalks are cramped by overhead utility lines with no setback from the street. The street just hasn't been able to capture a strong college-district atmosphere.

This spring, though, construction fences have gone up around two new projects that signal a change in the street life along our beloved and belittled Parkway.

One end soon will feature the U District

student housing project, at the site of the old University Park Apartments. It's certainly understandable if alumni have forgotten these 1960s-era units sandwiched between the elegant UNLV Foundations Building and the strip mall home of Paymon's Mediterranean Cafe and Lounge, where many a Rebel has broken (pita) bread. Hidden behind whitewashed cinderblock walls and overgrown olive trees, the complex hadn't aged well and few students chose to live there despite the convenience.

By fall 2017, the 14-acre site will be home to about 750 students in the first apartment-style housing ever on campus, with future

ristling Dreams

But we aren't walking this street alone. BY CATE WEEKS



phases upping that to about 2,500-3,000 new beds targeted at our upperclassmen and graduate students.

Further down and across the street is University Gateway, a mixed-use project that will start with a much-needed garage for UNLV permit holders. Kitty-corner to Greenspun Hall, it will bring more convenient parking to the population-dense southeast corner of campus. It replaces a couple of buildings including the long-gone Moose McGillicuddy's and the series of restaurants that followed it.

In 2017, the project will add office and retail space, including the new headquarters

for UNLV's police department. With the potential for outdoor cafes, the Gateway development offers a new front door for our parkway.

These two projects have one major thing in common: Unlike UNLV's existing residence halls and parking garages, they are getting off the ground through public-private partnerships.

"Campuses throughout the country during the economic downturn were forced to look to alternative models to get anything built," UNLV President Len Jessup said. "But really, this has evolved well beyond something you do because you have to. It's

about doing more for our campus than we could do on our own."

NATIONAL CONTEXT

For most of their history, public universities were all things to their students: educator, landlord, cook, and bookseller. When the need for new residence halls arose, they financed them by lobbying their legislators and attracting donations from affluent community members, or they developed internal business plans and issued bonds backed by such reliable income streams as student fees and parking permits. Certainly

University Gateway

? Located on the east side of Maryland Parkway, across the street from the university near Greenspun Hall, this project includes a parking structure and retail and professional space. It eventually will house the UNLV police station.

2.2 acres with 610 parking spaces reserved for UNLV permit holders and 10,000-square-foot facility for UNLV Police Services.

\$ \$18 million

H **Public-private partnership:** Developer G2CapCo owns the land and is constructing the garage specifically for UNLV under a lease-purchase option agreement.

W The parking structure will be completed by the end of 2016 with the office and retail space to follow in 2017. Work began at the site in January 2016.

& It's in keeping with Midtown UNLV, a revitalization effort supported by UNLV, urban planners, and private landowners. Its goal is to create a lively university district surrounding the campus.



that was the case with Dayton Hall in 2001, when UNLV last added housing, and with the Student Union and the Student Recreation and Wellness Center projects in 2007.

UNLV began forming business relationships that go beyond a straight-forward purchase of goods a couple decades ago — the Barnes & Noble-run bookstore and Aramark's dining operations, for example. But a decade ago, the Nevada System of Higher Education began pushing its institutions to think even bigger. "It may not have been new in higher education, but these sorts of partnerships were new for the system," said Gerry Bomotti, UNLV's senior vice president of finance and business.

Leaders had witnessed how Arizona State University had raised its stature while transforming the community around it through public-private partnerships. Nationally, parking projects and housing became easy targets at institutions like University of Kentucky, Texas A&M, Portland State, and The Ohio State University.

UNLV's housing program is now one of the success stories. As Great Recession-era budget cuts permeated the campus and positions were eliminated or simply left unfilled, UNLV housing struggled. By 2011, just 900 students lived on campus, filling only 55 percent of the available beds. Housing staff, Bomotti noted, were struggling to maintain student

programming with declining revenues, so they increased housing fees to make up for the shortfalls.

"They ended up pricing themselves out of the market," Bomotti said. "Their focus was their core function to enrich the student experience, not on marketing and facility maintenance."

So UNLV began exploring models other than that "all things to all students" approach. After a request for proposals (RFP) process, UNLV selected AVS Housing Group, a venture between local real estate firms and a national student housing specialist. The university retained its programming responsibilities in the residence halls while AVS now handles the marketing, contracts, and facility operations.

"In spring 2014, people came to me and said, 'We have a problem with housing — too many freshmen want to sign up another year.'" Bomotti said. "It's a good problem to have."

The residence halls are now at capacity with 1,800 Rebels — primarily freshmen — and housing revenues are up about \$4.5 million annually, and the university is positioned to expand on-campus housing. When the 14-acre site of the old University Park Apartments became available, UNLV jumped at it, partnering with local developer The Midby Cos.

Through a 40-year lease agreement, The Midby Cos. is financing the \$76 million project and will operate the units as part of UNLV's on-campus

? Description

Size

\$ Budget

H How it's funded

S When it will be done

& Tidbit

Campus Village

? In the biggest land acquisition since the Thomas and Mack families led the charge in the 1960s to expand the campus to 334 acres, UNLV acquired these 42 acres adjacent to campus at Tropicana Avenue and Koval Lane. The campus master plan calls for turning this space into a mixed-use campus village with expanded facilities for graduate and professional studies, housing, and restaurant and retail space.

42 acres

\$ \$50 million for land purchase

H **Public-private partnerships:** The UNLV Foundation stepped in initially to purchase the land and hold it as UNLV develops long-term financing options.

W Construction will not begin anytime soon, but securing the land was an opportunity that land-locked UNLV couldn't let pass. The Board of Regents approved the purchase for longterm financing at its March meeting.

& Will a new football stadium be nestled into this Campus Village? There's plenty of space. The question is being considered by Gov. Brian Sandoval's Southern Nevada Tourism Infrastructure Committee and by the Campus Improvement Authority board, a group of campus, local government, and business leaders tasked by the Nevada Legislature to study feasibility and options.

The U District

? The dated 1960s-era University Park apartments at Maryland Parkway and Cottage Grove Road are being transformed into a new on-campus housing community. It will include construction of a new complex with 2-bed/2-bathroom and 4-bed/4-bathroom configurations along with fitness center, group study rooms, and social lounges.

14 acres.

\$ \$76 million

H **Public-private partnership:** Developer The Midby Cos. is financing and developing the project through a 40-year ground lease (UNLV owns the land) and will manage operations in partnership with the national firm Asset Campus Housing.

W Renovated units on the western two-thirds of site will be remodeled for fall 2016. The new building under Phase I will open in Fall 2017. Future phases over the next 10 years will bring a total of 2,500-3,000 beds.

& One of the most striking features of the new complex will be a 2,000-square-foot resort-style pool with cabanas and barbecues.

Harry Reid Research and Technology Park

? Located off the southern I-215 Beltway at Durango Drive, the masterplanned park is owned by the UNLV Research Foundation. It supports UNLV's efforts to contribute to research and economic development in Southern Nevada with the potential for 3.5 million gross square feet of building space.

122 acres

\$ Costs will vary depending on tenant needs

H **Public-private partnerships:** The park is owned by the UNLV Research Foundation. Construction of future development will come from public-private partnerships. Earnings from leases will be used to further UNLV programs.

W A 110,000-square-foot pharmaceutical facility for BRIOVA opened in 2015 and is expected to bring 353 new jobs to Las Vegas. Charter school American Preparatory Academy also recently opened.

& Coming soon: Many more public-private partnerships. The site will become an "innovation district" to foster connections between the university and business communities and accelerate the translation of university research into products and services.

Medical School Interim Facility

? Work has begun to convert previously unused space at UNLV's Shadow Lane Campus — located in the heart of the Las Vegas Medical District — into the interim teaching facility for our new Medical School. The school is also working to lease space at University Medical Center for faculty offices.

20,000 square feet

\$ Modest renovation costs. Permanent facility TBD.

H **Public funding:** The state is funding the initial start-up costs for education and faculty. UNLV is covering the cost of the interim space. Fundraising will help build the permanent facility.

W The interim facility will be done in time to welcome the inaugural class. Faculty offices will come online by the end of 2016. In fall 2015, Tate Snyder and Kimsey was named the lead architectural firm for the school. CO Architects was hired in partnership as the specialty architect for the permanent facility.

& A decision regarding the permanent site of the medical school is expected this summer.

"This has evolved well beyond something you do because you have to. It's about doing more for our campus than we could do on our own."
— UNLV President Len Jessup

T&M Renovation and Expansion

? After three decades, the T&M Center was starting to show its age and needed major improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This project upgraded everything from the flooring and seats up to the rafters holding the sound system. Renovations were made to the restrooms, concession stands, and mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, as well as the Si Redd and other events spaces.

A 35,000-square-foot, two-story addition on the west side of the building added meeting and events space with views of the Strip as well as much-needed back-of-house space.

\$ \$72.5 million for renovations and expansion

H **Public and donor funded:** \$54.4 million in state funds from the slot tax source, \$3.25M donor funds from the Thomas and Mack families, \$13.5M in financed funds, and \$1.35M in TMC facility-related funds.

W The project should wrap up in fall 2016.

& The T&M's 150 events bring in 850,000 visitors annually. On Oct. 19, it will grab the attention of millions of viewers for the final debate of the 2016 presidential election season.



housing offerings. Along with the staples of social lounges and study rooms you'd expect in campus housing, the complex will offer a resort-style swimming pool, outdoor barbecues, and other amenities that public institutions seldom can afford.

The due diligence process for making sure the project meets UNLV's needs was both exhaustive and public. It resulted in a 415-page briefing paper submitted to the system's Board of Regents. Included were feasibility reports from independent consultants, details on how much students will be charged and the terms of their contracts, as well as what happens should future construction stall.

A key benefit, Jessup said, is that these partnerships mitigate UNLV's financial risk. "This way we can focus our limited resources fully on addressing the academic infrastructure needs that are critical for us achieving our Top Tier goals," he said, referring to UNLV's strategic plan to become one of the nation's best public research universities. "We're able to offer competitive and much-needed new amenities and services without taking on the debt burden to build them."

It's a comfortable financial investment risk for The Midby Cos., said its CEO and director of development, Eric Midby. "Our company does a really good job at creating multifamily communities," he said. "We can quantify the risk. And we know that if we don't focus on delivering something that the students will absolutely love, something that really meets their needs, we won't succeed."

GROUNDING IN THE MASTER PLAN

There are limits, however, and times that UNLV has turned away from public-private proposals. Nearly a decade ago, UNLV needed more parking and wanted it located on the southeast side of campus. With no university-owned land available in the area, UNLV requested information from developers. "What we got back just wasn't suitable," Bomotti said. "The proposals were too skewed toward the developer and didn't meet the needs we'd identified."

Instead, UNLV settled on a second-choice location with its own financing and built the Tropicana Garage near the Thomas & Mack Center. But officials kept an eye on the market. As the economy recovered and property owners along Maryland Parkway showed signs of being ready to invest again, another RFP went out. This time G2CapGo came back with the University Gateway project.

Bomotti also once looked at privatizing food and beverage at the Thomas & Mack Center. "We were pretty happy to confirm what the staff there already knew about themselves," Bomotti said. "They had three decades of experience competing — and competing well — against other venues. They had a strong infrastructure already in place. The numbers told us to keep running it ourselves."

Dave Frommer, executive director of planning and construction, noted that the two Maryland Parkway projects are a key element of the campus

? Description

Size

\$ Budget

H How it's funded

S When it will be done

& Tidbit



Hospitality Hall

? Hospitality Hall, the new home for the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, is being constructed in the heart of the UNLV campus on the North Field. The new facility will also benefit the Lee Business School, which currently shares Frank and Estella Beam Hall with the Hotel College.

93,500 square feet

\$ \$56 million for building construction

H **Public and donor funded:** The construction cost is split roughly in half between state and private donations, including a number of corporate donors.

W Opening at the end of fall 2017. The groundbreaking ceremony was held March 30, 2016.

& The building will contain interactive classrooms, a student-run cafe, an executive learning kitchen, and a learning center for the PGA golf management program.

master plan, which was officially updated in 2012. Just as the Summerlin and Green Valley communities in Southern Nevada were master planned, so too, is the campus.

“Our master plan makes sure we’re ready when things like the U District and the Gateway projects come up,” Frommer said. “We recognized immediately that these projects not only support our need for housing and parking and office space, they also support our efforts for Maryland Parkway’s redevelopment and the creation of Midtown UNLV.”

Midtown UNLV aims to create a more vibrant university district, one that will keep students close and attract the community to our academic and cultural offerings. It’s also tied to Clark County and Regional Transportation Commission efforts to make revitalization all along Maryland Parkway a priority. “Ultimately, we hope these two projects bring real momentum to Midtown,” President Jessup said.

The Gateway project’s summary submitted for the Board of Regents’ approval noted that the developer’s retail spaces will benefit from increased foot traffic as well as an increased sense of safety when the UNLV police department moves in.

The master plan also ensures decision makers aren’t distracted by pitches that, though exciting, veer away from true campus needs. “We don’t do deals that just end up subsidizing a builder’s goal,” Bomotti said. “To be a partnership, it must serve both entities equally well.”

That principle will be at the forefront of what could be UNLV’s biggest public-private partnership project yet. At the end of 2015, landlocked UNLV jumped at the chance to expand with the purchase of 42 acres next to campus on Tropicana Avenue east of Koval Lane. The acquisition opens up the possibilities for several long-wanted projects without cramping existing buildings and the coveted open spaces that foster student activities.

The possibility with the most buzz includes an on-campus stadium. But that still will leave plenty of room for much-needed facilities for graduate/professional studies, more housing, and self-supporting facilities such as community medical and dental clinics — all of which would demand even more retail and dining options.

The stadium question soon may be settled by the governor’s Southern Nevada Tourism Infrastructure Committee and the Legislature’s Campus Improvement Authority Board. But, “with or without a stadium, the land will be developed significantly through partnerships,” Frommer said.

Since Jessup took UNLV’s top job in January 2015, he’s repeatedly talked about the changing model for public universities — one that brings more entrepreneurial strategies to the business side of running the university. “To some people in higher education, that’s a little foreign. To me, it’s opportunity. It’s how we’ll actually fuel our ambitions.”

More: UNLV’s public-private partnerships aren’t just for bricks-and-mortar development. Read about how research programs got a super-boost from new partnerships on [page 12](#) and how we’re increasingly a player in state economic development efforts on [page 14](#).



Dr. Tony Alamo's wildly varied career
started with a simple realization:
He'd misdiagnosed UNLV.

Hometown Hub

The credentials and accolades are as impressive as they are lengthy: longtime respected Southern Nevada physician; onetime chief of staff at two local hospitals; former chairman of the Nevada State Athletic Commission; current chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission; tactical physician for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's SWAT division; first civilian recipient of Metro's "Medal of Valor"; avid aviator and licensed pilot since the age of 19.

All of this — not to mention a deep affinity for his hometown university — make Dr. Tony Alamo a worthy choice as UNLV's Alumnus of the Year for 2016. But to truly appreciate the good doctor's fascinating journey, you have to first return to its origins. You see, 35 years ago, the thought of Alamo someday being named UNLV Alumnus of the Year would've been as implausible as a physician serving as the head of a state's gaming commission. That's because Alamo never thought he'd be a Rebel — not in a million years.



FLASHBACK TO LATE SUMMER IN 1982. A recent graduate of Chaparral High School, 18-year-old Tony Alamo was packing his bags for the trip west to attend UCLA. A resident of Las Vegas since the age of 10, Alamo was a high-achieving student at Chaparral, where he developed a love for science.

Oh, he would one day return to his beloved hometown to practice medicine — that was a given. But in order to arrive at that destination, the soon-to-be pilot needed to fly the coop. UNLV was simply not an option, not for an academically gifted student like him. Or so he believed.

Not long after landing on UCLA's campus, Alamo discovered two things: 1) Academically, the university offered everything that a pre-med student could hope for; and 2) it offered it to thousands of like-minded students.

Alamo liked the former; the latter, not so much.

After a few weeks attending classes in large auditoriums packed with more than 200 students and professors lecturing through microphones — professors who were virtually inaccessible both in and out of the classroom — Alamo concluded that being a small fish in a big pond wasn't for him.

He made it through the first quarter, then returned home for winter break intent on charting a new, more intimate educational course. UNLV, he figured, would be a stop-over. "I was in the middle of the school year, so it was going to be hard to [transfer to] good schools midstream like that," Alamo says. "So I said, 'OK, let me matriculate at UNLV and get some prerequisites out of the way so I'm not wasting my time, and I'll figure out where I'm going to go.'"

Did he leave open the possibility of remaining at UNLV? "Absolutely not. Because that was failure to me."

Alamo's closed mind would soon open.

After enrolling for the spring semester, the

pre-chemistry major learned that his classes at UNLV required the same textbooks he brought home from UCLA. Once the semester started, he discovered the courses — physics, calculus, inorganic chemistry — weren't going to be easy. In fact, the only significant difference he saw was in the class sizes: around 30 at UNLV, as opposed to 200-plus.

As Alamo prepared for midterms with around-the-clock study sessions, the epiphany hit: "I realized that UNLV was a good school, that it wasn't 'Tumbleweed Tech.' I didn't need to go anywhere."

He did more than just stay. In his sophomore year, he — along with some fellow science students who initially skipped town for college only to return home after finding the experience unsatisfying — started advocating for UNLV. As one of the founding members of the Student Ambassador program, Alamo and his friends visited area high schools and shared the virtues of UNLV with high-achieving students.

Their overarching message: When it comes time to choose where you want to continue your education, don't make the same mistake we did and overlook your hometown university.

Then-President Robert Maxson soon caught wind of the program. "He put his arms around us, and all of a sudden, we had money, we had access, we had legitimacy, and the Student Ambassador program became something real and big," Alamo said. "He used us as a marketing tool to go back into the community and keep the [top] academic kids here."

In 1986, Alamo graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, then headed to University of Southern California's School of Medicine. The fact he was admitted to that esteemed program confirmed what he already surmised: that a quality education could indeed be had at UNLV.

"I've got nothing but great things to say about my level of education," Alamo said. "I got to USC's School of Medicine, and USC recruits people from all over the world — undergrads from big, prestigious schools. And here was a little kid from UNLV."

AFTER EARNING HIS MEDICAL DEGREE IN 1991 and subsequently completing a three-year residency, Alamo — as he promised himself nearly a decade earlier — returned home to begin his practice. Today, he's the medical director of the Alamo Medical Clinic, a multi-physician group in Henderson that specializes in primary care.

Although his numerous outside interests — be it Gaming Commission hearings or responding to incidents as one of the on-call physicians for Metro's SWAT command — take him away from his medical office for stretches at a time, practicing medicine remains his primary passion. "If you circle back to everything I do, it's either because I grew up in a gaming environment — because my father was in gaming — or because of my medical degree," Alamo said. "People might look at my career and say, 'Oh, you do so many varied things,' but the spokes of the wheel always go back to the hub."

UNLV, of course, will always be one of those very significant spokes in Alamo's life. And as he looks at his alma mater, he almost can't believe what he sees. "Look

The advice I'd give myself as a new grad ...

The UNLV Alumni Association will present the 2016 Alumni Awards on May 12, just two days before spring commencement. So we've been asking this year's crop of nearly 20 honorees to tell us what they'd go back in time to tell themselves. Here's a taste of what they're telling us:

Relax. When we are young, we stress out about our future and what that will look like. I picked a profession that I love, but I would want my younger self to remember that balance is important. ... Do what you do and do it well and you'll be fine.

The last bit of advice I'd give myself at my 1986 graduation would be to buy land west of Rainbow Boulevard — it will make sense in 20 years. For new grads, think of your future needs, your future family, and look to set down roots.

Lori Marrs, '86 BSBA Finance, is receiving the Achievement in Service Award. She is the founder and managing partner of Marrs Bergquist CPAs in Las Vegas and served as treasurer for the UNLV Alumni Association board of directors for six years.



For every job today there could be 20 applicants. What makes you stand out? It's not your resume. It's often the homework you do before the interview. It's cliché, but true: You only have one chance at a first impression. That said, second impressions are important, too. After an interview, remember the "thank you" note. I'm old-fashioned and really like handwritten ones, but an email will do the trick.

"I'd also tell myself to start thinking about how to give back. It's easy to get caught up in looking for work, but volunteering ... will come back to you in so many ways."

Diana Bennett will receive the Silver State Award, the association's highest honor for nongraduates. She is CEO and co-founder of Paragon Gaming, which currently operates several Canadian gaming properties, and oversees the Bennett Family Foundation.



Read more: Visit unlv.edu/news in May to read advice from all the honorees and to share your own with us. **Join the fun:** Come to the May 12 awards program to network with your fellow alums. For event details and tickets, visit unlvalumni.org.

what UNLV has done in the last 30 years: added a law school, a new medical school, the campus has doubled in size. Now it's a strong university."

Asked to drive home that very point to Southern Nevada's current crop of high school students who are pondering their university options, UNLV's 2016 Alumnus of the Year proudly travels back in time to

his Student Ambassador days and delivers a strong message:

"If there are reasons for you to go elsewhere, they should be viable reasons. If one of the reasons you're going elsewhere is because you think UNLV is not academic enough or worthy enough of having you and will hold you back from bigger and better things, you're blowing it, kid."

A Career that Clicks

Alumnus Alex Andres combines lifelong love of Lego with training in theatre design to land his dream job.

BY MIKE KALIL

As a 5-year-old transfixed by Lego, Alex Andres pored over the step-by-step guides for transforming his plastic brick piles. He built trucks and buildings and boats. Then one day he started setting aside the lengthy booklets that came with new sets of the iconic toy.

He wanted to think outside the box. A massive Lego container ship became one of the most impressive of his young creations. “It was really exciting. As soon as I put all the pieces together, something in my mind just clicked.”

Years of constructing Lego sculptures this way honed skills that would land Andres, ’12 BA Theatre, his dream job.

The UNLV alumnus gets paid to play with Lego bricks.

Andres works for Merlin Studios Carlsbad building architectural and sculptural models for Legoland Resorts in five countries and Legoland Discovery Center’s attractions worldwide. His team is based outside of San Diego at Legoland California Resort, home to more than 30,000 models crafted from some 60 million tiny components.

As required by his employer, he’s tight-lipped about specific projects. “We’re pretty secretive,” Andres said. He could confirm he recently completed working on the giant Lego cityscape – or MiniLand in Lego parlance – for Legoland Dubai. The theme park is slated to open in October in the United Arab Emirates.

He’s a little more forthcoming on what a typical workday is like as one of only 100 Merlin employees worldwide who builds Lego models for a living. “It’s pretty simple,” he said. “I clock in, I go to a work station, and I start playing with Lego.” [Like other devotees, Andres does not append an “s” to Lego.]

Much like the ignore-the-instructions theme of his youth, Andres took a nontraditional route on his college and career path before scoring a fantasy gig.

Born on a military base in Hawaii, Andres moved with his family to Southern California when he was 3. He was an athletic kid growing up alongside his sister and three brothers, playing football, basketball, soccer, golf, and hockey. But his interests began shifting in high school. “I realized I wasn’t as athletic as I thought I was after my sophomore year,” he said. “Stage plays and musicals, that’s where a lot of my passion was.”

After high school, Andres tried acting in Hollywood with little luck, then headed to an art school and junior college before fully pursuing theatre arts design and technology at UNLV. “(UNLV) was such a different experience,” he said. “It was a real four-year college experience, and I immersed myself in the college lifestyle.”

Besides studying and working on university productions like *The Cradle Will Rock* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Andres vied against other colleges on the ballroom floor as part of the Rebel DanceSport team.



ALEX ANDRES

’12 BA Theater Arts Design and Technology

Job: Master Model Builder, Merlin Studios, Carlsbad, California

Family: Married to Xyza Andres; 5-year-old daughter, Kaylani

I CAN’T BELIEVE I MADE IT THROUGH: “Advanced Theatre History II. I was a theater person, I’d been a theater person for years, but there was a lot I wasn’t familiar with. There are days I’d be at the library until 2 a.m. trying to study for that class.”

With his degree in hand, he landed a job as an entertainment technician at The Mondavi Center for Performing Arts at University of California, Davis, and then Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in San Francisco before he applied for the Lego building position in 2014. The hiring process sounds strikingly similar to the plot of *The Lego Movie*: Andres had to conquer a series of building challenges to prove himself worthy of the master model builder title.

SEE **ANDRES** PAGE 33



The Comedy and Drama of Fifth Grade

When Marquin Parks challenged his class to read more, he ended up finding his own voice as a writer.

BY BRIAN SODOMA

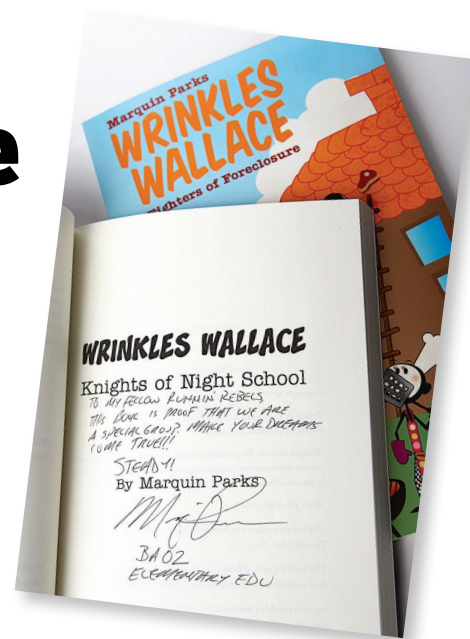
Marquin Parks was a young teacher a decade ago just trying to connect with his room of fourth and fifth graders. More than anything, he wanted students to read independently. So Parks made a pact with his students: If they read quietly for an hour, he would use that time to write a book. Then, when the session was up, he would read his work aloud and let them offer their critiques.

This was the genesis for the Wrinkles Wallace books, a series whose main character is

sent back to fifth grade (at age 28!) after finding out that he had failed due to not turning in enough homework. The characters tackle plenty of tween-year issues along with their 11-year-old teacher, a genius named Mr. Sittin' B. Quiet.

Parks' first two Wrinkles Wallace books have been published and a third is on the way. In his new series, Annie Ruth, slated for later this year, the lead character attends a school field trip and suddenly becomes a key player in solving a bank robbery.

Parks found his career path at the age of 14,



when he helped at an after-school program, but becoming an author was never part of the plan. "I was always a writer, but I would keep

MARQUIN PARKS

'02 BS Elementary Education

Job: Children's book author and Behavior Intervention Specialist, Ann Arbor (Michigan) Public Schools

Family: 12-year-old son Logan Parks

I CAN'T BELIEVE I MADE IT THROUGH:

"My toughest class at UNLV was for Classroom Management. Dr. C. Edward Lawrence was in charge and he had already written one book on how to fire teachers. I put a lot of pressure on myself to make sure that I did everything the right way while under his watchful eye."

it to myself," said Park, '02 BS Elementary Education. "When I wrote the first book, I didn't see myself becoming a professional author. I was just trying to help my students from an academic standpoint."

A PUBLISHING JOURNEY

Parks' students — and their families — nudged him into the publishing world. His students would talk about *Wrinkles Wallace* at the dinner table, and soon those parents became some of his biggest fans. "They challenged me to get it published. So, I entered it into a contest run by the Michigan Elementary and Middle Schools Principals Association in 2009," he said.

The story didn't take the top prize, but it finished in the top four and led to a job offer and a raise. "It ended up putting me in a better position financially, and I felt I could focus on the book and take it to different levels," he added.

Parks eventually caught the attention of Cleveland-based publisher Meridian, to whom he sent his first and fifth books in the series. The first book, *Wrinkles Wallace*:

Knights of Night School, was published in 2012. The follow-up, *Wrinkles Wallace: Fighters of Foreclosure*, was published in 2014. He wrote it to help kids around the country understand what can happen when a financial change forces a move.

Parks shared, "Foreclosure hit states like Michigan and Nevada really hard. I had students who had to move due to their loved ones losing their jobs. Sometimes it's hard for a parent to tell their child why they had to move. I wanted to write a book to help explain the situation."

Parks wasn't warm to the idea of revising and editing his original work, but learned to embrace it. One late edit in the first book came only two months before publishing, and it created one of his best comic moments in the story — where a porta-potty ends up in a school classroom. "I hated revisions — even as a kid, I just wanted to be done — but it allowed us to create something new and it made it better," he added.

Parks also attended the Eastern Michigan Writing Project in 2011. It was there that he learned about not keeping his writing bottled up inside of him, an issue that plagues many would-be authors. "They talked a lot about how you can't just keep your talent to yourself and be whimsical about it. It was about me learning how to give what they perceived as my greatness to the world," he added.

EXTRA EYES

With a decade of classroom teaching under his belt, Parks now serves as a behavior intervention specialist with the Ann Arbor School District. He works with seventh- and eighth-graders who require extra mentoring. On any given day, he may meet with teachers to help match instruction with learning styles or be that parent-like voice reminding a student

of their responsibilities. Sometimes helping a kid's academic performance requires more than teaching: He's bought students plenty of lunches, either as a reward for good work or just because a kid is hungry.

"These are just students who would benefit from an extra set of eyes and hands," he explained, while eschewing the at-risk label.

Parks received his own "extra set of eyes" at UNLV. His first college try at Eastern Michigan University lacked academic focus but after a short time away from school, he enrolled at UNLV. "It was the best decision I made. Some professors saw something in me," he said. "They wanted to see me successful and would take the time, whether it was office hours or after class and even during class, to make sure I was OK, that I was understanding things and going on the path I wanted to go on."

LITERACY AND DIVERSITY

Growing up, Judy Blume and the Choose Your Own Adventure series drew Parks into reading. Young readers today, he said, need to be afforded the time and flexibility to find their own reading interests.

"Reading is like food. We all don't have the same taste buds," he noted. But encouraging kids to talk to each other about the stories they like and why helps inspire nonreaders to pick up a book.

Parks also advocates for more diversity in young adult literature. With Annie Ruth, he developed an African-American protagonist, and he was focused on making diversity an important part of the narrative.

"Wrinkles Wallace doesn't have culture — it's all about topics we tackle in society," he said. "My goal with Annie Ruth was to introduce more culture to reading, especially for youth. There isn't enough out there for them."

Andres

FROM PAGE 31

Timed challenges — on his own and as a team — tested his ability to duplicate already finished models. For his final challenge, he had to re-create a complex model of an apple by examining only its surface. "It was glued together, so you had to figure out what was going on inside it

just by spinning it around," Andres said. "I felt pretty confident, because I played with Lego my entire life."

While a college degree wasn't required for his job, Andres said his theatre design training has proven valuable for imbuing plastic cityscapes with a human touch of drama. "We're not just building large skyscrapers," he said. "We're building street life and bringing life into it."

So how does he unwind after a day of continuous construction?

"When I get home, I help my daughter play with Lego," he said. "She's picking it up faster than I did."

It's a struggle for this young father not to lock back into Master Model Builder mode when 5-year-old Kaylani gets stuck. "I try not to take over her Lego sets," Andres said with a laugh, "but it does happen."

NOTES

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1960s

Diana Armstrong Winn, '68 BA English, is celebrating her fifth year as operations manager of Rebuilding Together Southern Nevada. She is engaged to fellow Basic High School graduate John Stephens. Her hobbies include Zumba, Pilates, and turbo kickboxing.

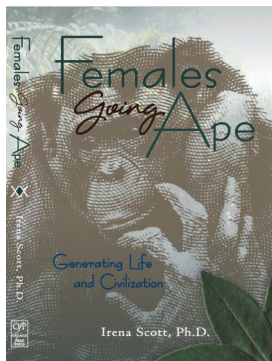
1970s

Irena Scott, '72 MS Biology, is retired. She worked as both the chief operating officer of AlumPolaris and as a professor at St. Bonaventure University. She is the author of several recently published books, including *Females Going Ape: Generating Life and Civilization*, which shows the female as the principal actor in both the advancement and evolution of the earth's organisms. In the book she discusses how females survive better than males, how most organisms are female, how most can reproduce without a male, and how they are the natural leaders and innovators. She also is the author of *Uncle: My Journey with John Purdue*, which is about the founder of Purdue University. Photography is her hobby. She lives in Lewis Center, Ohio.

Meri Shadley, '72 MA Psychology, is a marriage and family therapist in private practice. She teaches and directs the collegiate recovery program at UNR. Recently, she attended the Washington, D.C., Rally for Facing Addiction and provided public advocacy for the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (pictured with U.S. Sen. Harry Reid). Her hobbies include needlepoint, outdoor activities, and attending musical and cultural events. The Reno resident is married and has one grown son.

Jack Werner, '72 BA Political Science, is immediate past director of the D.C. government energy office. He also has served as executive director of the Institute for Sustainable Power, senior fellow at the Climate Institute, assessor for the American National Standards Institute, and as energy/environmental advisor to the International Renewable Energy Agency. He is working to create a regional sustainable energy standards/certification program for 15 nations in West Africa. He lives in Washington, D.C.

Gary Brown, '73 BS Hotel Administration, is an adjunct professor at Bryant & Stratton College where he teaches Introduction to Hospitality Management, tutors, and assists in the college library. His hobbies are travel, wood-working, and classic cars. He owns a 1961 Triumph TR-3 and a 1991 Acura NSX. He and his wife, Suzie, have two sons, Tyler and Travis. The family lives in Williamsburg, Virginia.



Scott, '72

Lynette Davis Quigley, '73 BA Math, '75 MS Math, decided to become a teacher after being assigned to teach Math 126/127 when she was a graduate student. She spent 30 years teaching math for the Clark County School District before retiring three years ago. She has come full circle and is teaching math at UNLV on a part-time basis. She is married and has three sons, all of whom have chosen mathematics careers.

Van Nickerson, '74 BS Business Administration, is embarking on a major project to spearhead a black Disneyland-type theme park in a small town in Mississippi. An African village depicting life before slavery will be featured. The theme park will include hotels, restaurants, casinos, a housing development, a movie studio, and an airport. He plays Latin percussion instruments professionally and lives in Lebec, California.

Ronald Hedger, '79 BA Psychology, is an associate professor of family medicine and associate dean and director of the Center of Professional Practice Simulation in Clinical Education at Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine. He received his osteopathic medical degree from the Osteopathic Medical School at Western University of Health Science. Television production is his hobby. He and his wife, Karen, have been married 30 years and have three children and two granddaughters. The couple lives in Henderson.

1980s

Lois Grosser, '80 Bachelor of Fine Arts, is an artisan metalsmith designing jewelry with inspiration from her southwestern experiences. She also has had successful careers as a fine artist and as a graphic designer. NASCAR is her hobby. She has three children and eight grandchildren. She lives in North Fort Myers, Florida.

Charisse Ciambrone, '82 BA Sociology, '10 Master of Education, has worked at the College of Southern



Werner, '72



Hedger, '79



Kulesza, '85



Ware, '86



Symanski, '87



Berman, '90



Shadley, '72

Nevada since 2007 teaching English as a Second Language. She also teaches math to adults who are studying for high school equivalency exams. She earned a master of education degree at Sierra Nevada College.

George Tuzzeo, '82 BA Music, is a musician who also works in piano sales. He lives in Paramus, New Jersey.

Marina Abodeely Jezzini, '84 BS Hotel Administration, has been a real estate broker/sales associate in Las Vegas for 23 years. She works with Re/Max Benchmark and recently received the Re/Max Hall of Fame Award. She also received a Top Nevada Premier Agents Award from Zillow.com. Her 14-year-old son, Andre, attends UNLV sporting events and proudly wears Rebel garb. Her hobbies include hiking at Red Rock, yoga, watching Andre's baseball games, and traveling.

Kathi Kulesza, '85 BS Hotel Administration, is a mind/body transformation coach and professional speaker. She supports female executives as they commit to making healthier choices — eating healthy, moving more, and acknowledging their wants. She began her wellness journey at age 45 when she decided to do something about her weight and health. She joined a gym, hired a personal trainer, and lost 40 pounds. Her hobbies are working out, volunteering at church, beading, reading, and hanging out with her three-pound furry best friend.

Thomas Ware II, '86 BA Political Science, this year became a name partner in the law firm of Kulik, Gottesman, Siegel & Ware in Sherman Oaks, California. His practice has focused on representation of nonprofit homeowners associations, their volunteer directors and officers,

and their property managers. He was one of the attorneys of record for the prevailing parties in the landmark California Supreme Court case *Nahrstedt v. Lakeside Village Condominium Association*. He has been awarded Martindale-Hubbell's highest peer-review rating and has been selected for inclusion in Southern California Super Lawyers. He and his wife, Marnie, have been married since 1993 and have two children, son Kellen and daughter Christine. The family lives in Los Angeles.

Jon Bayer, '87 BS Hotel Administration, is a middle school English teacher. He has been teaching for 16 years. Before that, he spent 12 years in the hospitality industry, primarily working in restaurant management. His hobbies are hiking, fishing, biking, weight training, jogging, reading, travel, and gourmet cooking. He and his wife, Jenny, have six sons between them. The family lives in Salinas, California.

Leon Symanski, '87 BS Business Administration, '94 Master of Public Administration, '01 JD, is an attorney with Craig P. Kenny & Associates. He worked in the hotel/casino industry for 10 years before becoming a member of the charter class of UNLV's Boyd School of Law. He was a Runnin' Rebel basketball player from 1984 to 1987. His hobbies are golfing, reading, and horse racing. He and his wife, **Lisa Gentile Symanski**, '87 BA Communication Studies, have a daughter, Noelle.

Steve Thornock, '87 BA Elementary Education, has been a tax lien investor since 1995. Classic arcade games are his hobby. He and his wife, **Joanna Gleason Thornock**, '85, have four children, including son **Terry Thornock**, '14 BA Philosophy; daughter **Juliana**; son **Jesse Thornock**, currently a UNLV sophomore majoring in graphic design; and son **Cody**, a high school senior who is considering attending UNLV in the fall.

1990s

Eric Berman, '90 BS Hospitality Administration, '10 Master of Hospitality Administration, is regional vice president for BJ's Restaurants. He oversees 40 restaurants in 15 states. He has been with the company for eight years.

David Deuel, '90 BA Criminal Justice, retired in 2011 after 20 years with the Nevada department of public safety. He says he had outstanding coworkers and also met a number of interesting individuals during his career as a parole and probation officer. He and his wife relocated to northern Michigan after his retirement. They enjoy the four seasons and not being able to even see a neighbor's house from their own. Their black lab, Bella, keeps them busy as she loves the snow, the lakes, hiking, and chasing tennis balls. They live in Indian River.

Sami Khal, '90 BS Business Administration, an assistant general manager at Costco Wholesale, is running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is seeking the Nevada District 3 seat. His wife, **Karen Brown Khal**, '93 BS Nursing, is a nurse. They have three daughters: **Courtney Kahl**, '15 BS Elementary Education, **Kathleen Kahl**, a UNLV sophomore majoring in social work, and **Janie Kahl**, a UNLV freshman who has not yet chosen a major. His hobbies include target shooting and discussing politics. The family lives in Henderson.

Brian Boehringer, '91, will be a producer of the film *Swing & a Miss: The Taylor Hooton Story*. The movie tells the story of a teenage pitcher during the height of the steroid era in Major League Baseball. Between 1995 and 2004, Boehringer played for the Pittsburgh Pirates, San Diego Padres, Yankees, and San Francisco Giants, and won a World Series ring in 1996 while pitching for the New York Yankees. One of his college highlights was pitching UNLV's second no-hitter on May 5, 1990, against University of the Pacific.

Christopher Edwards, '91 BS Business Administration, is a professor in UNLV's theatre department and serves as artistic director of Nevada Conservatory Theatre. He spent 20 years in New York City as an actor, director, and producer. He also held a variety of positions at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, including stints as director of education, director of apprentice training, and associate artistic director. He also has taught at Bennington College in Vermont and at Montclair State University in New Jersey. He is married, has one child, and lives in Henderson.

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Edwards, '91



Engle, '91



Danoski, '93



Banner, '94



Delaney, '94



Leoni, '96



Gupton, '97



The Roper family recently showed off their Rebel pride during an 80th birthday celebration for their eldest member, Shirley. From left: Christina A. Roper, '10 BS Athletic Training; Jay Roper, '91 BSBA Marketing; Stephanie Roper Pargeon, '08 BA Communication Studies; Shirley Roper '83 BS Nursing; and Mark Roper, '80 BSBA Finance.

Matt Engle, '91 BS Business Administration, is a commercial insurance broker with Cragin & Pike. A past president of the UNLV Alumni Association, he recently was elected as an executive board member with the Downtown Las Vegas Alliance. He will serve as chair of the membership committee and will assist in the mission of promoting continued growth downtown and ensuring the area is clean and safe.

Dennis Gradillas, '91 BS Hotel Administration, is regional operations manager for American Baptist Homes of the West (ABHOW). After many years working in the hotel and casino industry, he switched careers five years ago, going to work for ABHOW, which serves older adults in health care and housing. He recently moved to California to work at the company's home office. He now is pursuing a master's degree in gerontology. His hobbies include coaching Little League, hiking, biking, and the occasional triathlon. He says he, his wife, and their family are enjoying adapting to the Northern California lifestyle. They live in Brentwood.

Alfred McDonald, '91 BA Criminal Justice, in February became a judge pro tem in Marana Municipal Court in Arizona. He lives in Tucson.

John Hagen, '92 BS Chemistry, is a professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He is married to **Agnes Wong**, '92 BS Biochemistry.

Shawn Danoski, '93 BS Construction Management, is founder and CEO of DC Building Group, a commercial general contractor firm that he began in 2001. The company's portfolio includes restaurant-retail, religious, nonprofit, industrial, and office projects. The company has received multiple awards, including the 2010 Contractor of the Year Award from the Associated General Contractors (AGC) and the 2015 JA Tiberti Spirit Award from AGC and the Nevada Contractors Association. His hobbies include pursuing motorsports with his family. He and his wife, **Amber Clark Danoski**, '99 BS Education have two sons, Erik and Alex.

Mike Essig, '93 BS Hospitality Administration, '05 MS Hospitality Administration, has been promoted to senior director of information technology for the Choctaw Nation's newly created Commerce Division. He oversees IT for 21 casinos, 13 travel plazas, and a new grocery store enterprise. He lives in Durant, Oklahoma.



Pullen, '97



Smith, '97

Christina Robinson-Swett, '93 BA Art, has been an illustrator for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation since 1992. She began her career there through an internship arranged by UNLV's career services program and became a full-time employee once she graduated. She has done illustration work for various federal agencies, including the Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy. Among her career highlights have been eight Hoover Dam commemorative medallions, the Hoover Dam 75th anniversary medallion and postage stamp, and event material for a celebration marking an agreement between the U.S. and Mexico. Her hobbies include traveling and painting with watercolors and oils. She is married with three daughters. The family lives in Henderson.

Nancy Banner, '94 BS Hotel Administration, is a chef and founder of the Holistic Kitchen. She says she helps busy people (who know they should be eating better) create simple, healthy food that tastes as if they are cheating. She uses whole food and maximizes nutritional content to create recipes that enhance wellness and maximize the quality of life. She is a member of the American Culinary Federation and the American Personal and Private Chefs Association. She is a certified ServSafe Food Manager. She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Tim Delaney, '94 PhD Sociology, is serving his third term as chair of the sociology department at the State University of New York, Oswego. He was promoted to full professor in 2014. His 16th book, *Sportsmanship: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, was released in February. He served as editor and contributing author. His hobbies include sports and travel. In November he made his fifth trip to Russia where he presented a paper at a sportsmanship conference in Moscow.



Hollinger, '98



Zepeda, '02

Andre Lagomarsino, '95 BA English, has launched a new law firm, Lagomarsino Law. The firm will continue to support clients on both commercial and personal legal matters across key practice areas, including business litigation and business law, family law, employment law, personal injury, criminal defense, and civil rights. He lives in Henderson with his wife and two daughters.

Sara Mallett Leoni, '96 BA Communication Studies, is CEO of Rafter, a college course materials management company that focuses on making education more affordable, accessible, and effective for college students. She says the company has saved 2.7 million students more than half a billion dollars on textbooks. Previously, she held leadership roles at several companies, including Sharpcast, Cafepress, Yahoo!, and E*Trade. While at UNLV she played center field for the softball team and was named a Second Team All American.

Kevin Loudon, '96 BA Philosophy, is chief general counsel for Max Money Enterprises. Camping, hiking, off-roading, and fishing are his hobbies. He lives in Victoria, Texas.

Timothy Gupton, '97 BA Romance Languages, recently was promoted to the rank of associate professor of Spanish linguistics at the University of Georgia, with tenure effective this fall. He has worked at the university since 2010. He earned his master's degree at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and his doctoral degree at the University of Iowa.

Brian Schorgl, '97 BS Hotel Administration, has been the owner/operator of O'Neill's Restaurant and Bar in Leawood, Kansas for the past 16 years. His hobbies include playing golf, traveling, and going to the lake. He and his wife, Colleen, have three children, Kaitlin, 4; Francie, 2; and Jack, 8 months.

Karmen Smith, '97 Master of Social Work, is a licensed clinical social worker with a doctoral degree in divinity/pastoral counseling. She is a trauma specialist and ordained minister. She has more than 20 years of experience working in the field of child welfare with the Clark County department of family services. She was the assistant pastor of the University Church Institute of Metaphysics for many years and is the founder of NSITEFUL, which published her book, *The I AM Solution: Simple Practices to Transform FEAR back to LOVE*. Her hobbies are public speaking and watching inspirational movies. She lives in Henderson.

Gabrielle Pullen, '97 BA French, recently completed her master's degree in writing at the Pan-European MFA program at Cedar Crest College. She will obtain her certificate in teaching this spring. Having taught movement as a Feldenkrais practitioner, she has a special interest — and training — in how learning functions. She recently completed her creative thesis in the form of an historical novel titled *The Witches of East Lothian*. She lives in Bothell, Washington, having recently relocated from Northern California with her horse.

Paul Villaluz, '97 BS Civil Engineering, '06 MS Civil Engineering, is a project engineer II with Manatee County (Florida) department of public works. He received the Coordinating Council Best Project Award at the 2015 annual meeting of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). The award recognizes the best technical product resulting from work developed, completed, and sponsored by a council in the previous calendar year. As chair of the Traffic Engineering Council Committee, he served as lead author for the ITE informational report titled Sight Triangle and Corner Clearance Policies at Intersections and Driveways. He lives in Bradenton.

Janet Hollinger, '98 BS Biological Sciences, has worked for UNLV as a transition advisor at the Charleston campus of CSN since 2012. Before that she was an academic advisor in UNLV's College of Sciences. She has been married for more than 28 years and is the mother of two daughters, **Melinda Hollinger**, a UNLV senior majoring in multidisciplinary studies, and Heather. Her hobbies include animal rescue, reading, women's soccer, and NASCAR.

Huichia "Jessica" Jen, '99 BS Hotel Administration, '03 MBA, is general manager of the Westgate Flamingo Bay Resort. She joined Westgate Resorts in 2007 as the regional controller to assist the company in building its first project on the Las Vegas Strip, PH Towers by Westgate. After that project was acquired by another company in

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2012, she transitioned her role to resort operations in addition to her financial role.

2000s

Rosemary Lato, '01 BS Business Administration, is a certified public accountant. She recently celebrated the 10-year anniversary of Petrova & Pearson, CPAs. She lives in North Las Vegas.

Michele Lucero Villagran, '01 BS Business Administration, is a lecturer in the library & information sciences department at the University of North Texas.

Magdalena Zepeda, '02 MA Communication Studies, this year was promoted to assistant principal at Central Middle School in Riverside, California. Her hobbies are long-distance running, mentoring, reading, and writing. She lives in Coachella.

Joseph Baker, '03 BS Physics, is in his second year as an assistant professor of theoretical and computational chemistry at the College of New Jersey, a four-year undergraduate institution in Ewing. He received his doctoral degree in physics from the University of Arizona and held a postdoctoral position at the University of Chicago in the department of chemistry and the Center for Multiscale Theory and Simulation. His hobbies are playing the violin, reading science fiction, and walking and hiking with his dog.

Bryce Clutts, '03 BS Business Administration, is president of DC Building Group where he oversees strategy implementation, customer relations, and business operations. The company has received multiple awards, including the 2013 Safest Contractor of the Year Award, the



Clutts, '03



Robison, '04



Gross, '05



Milner, '07



Perez, '07



Tsolis, '10



Wandtke, '04



Biermacinski, '05

2010 Contractor of the Year Award from the Associated General Contractors (AGC), and the 2015 JA Tiberti Spirit Award from AGC and the Nevada Contractors Association. He is president of the Nevada Contractors Association, immediate past president of the Associated General Contractors of Las Vegas, and a recipient of the Juliette Low Pearl Lifetime Achievement Award from the Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada. He was appointed to the Nevada State Public Works Board and to the city of Henderson's Development Services Oversight Committee. He and his wife, Tonya, have four children, Aubrianna, Austin, Andrew, and Addison. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and riding horses.

Cynthia De La Torre, '03 BA Communication Studies, is the communications manager for a \$20 million grant from the National Institutes of Health that is housed at UNLV. The grant involves 13 institutions in seven states. She handles all social media and communications for the grant, including campaigns for its



Lavigne, '09

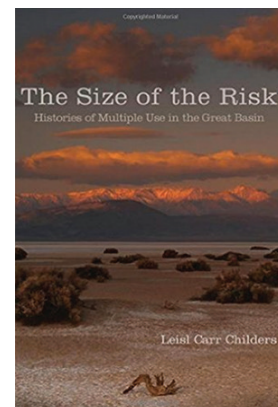
various funding mechanisms. Each year she organizes a meeting for 200 scientists and faculty members across the Mountain West. An advocate for immigration, prison reform, and higher education, she facilitates a support group for women coping with incarcerated family members. Her hobbies include hiking, cycling, reading, and networking. She has an 11-year-old daughter.

Brett Hughett, '03 BS Hotel Administration, recently was promoted to regional manager, West Coast, for Oakwood Worldwide's property management division. The company is a corporate housing provider and residential property management

company. He oversees its eight West Coast properties and the continued growth of its property management portfolio.

Carole Petricek, '03 BS Business Administration, received her certified public accountant license from the state of Washington in February. She lives in Spokane.

Melissa Waite, '03 BA Psychology, '07 MBA, '07 JD, recently was announced as a shareholder for the law firm of Jolley Urga Woodbury & Little. She practices primarily in the areas of business and real estate. She also focuses on business and privilege licensing, including liquor



Childers, '11

licensing, gaming, and medical marijuana establishment licensing. She is a member of the Boyd School of Law's Dean's Council and its Alumni Leadership Circle.

Hilarie Hicks Robison, '04 MA Ethics and Policy Studies, is founder and owner of Legacy Tale, which helps customers leave a legacy for loved ones by capturing and sharing personal family histories. The company's products combine photos and narratives of memories with video and audio. She lives in Logandale.

Michael Rossolo, '04 BS Hotel Administration, '12 MS Hotel Administration, has been promoted to director of revenue management at the Wailea Beach Marriott Resort and Spa on the Hawaiian island of Maui. The hotel is undergoing a major renovation with the goal of making it one of the premiere resorts on the island and a flagship Marriott resort. He has worked for Marriott International for 15 years. He lives in Kihei.

Irene Sereno Wandtke, '04 BS Business Administration, is a certified public accountant and a director



Jason Aaron Goldberg, '00 BFA, is the producer of the independent feature film *The Three Es*, which follows the Dunn family struggles as members regain their balance and composure after the middle and only male child has been severely injured in Iraq. The film won the Audience Choice Feature Film Award at the 2015 Laughlin International Film Festival, Best Feature Film Award at the Manhattan Film Festival, and a number of awards at the 2016 Idyllwild and Cinema on the Bayou film festivals. Goldberg also wrote and directed the film, which was coproduced with **Joseph Campanale**, '01 BFA. The film features **Jon Paul Raniola**, '00, and **Vanessa Elgrichi**, '11. Pictured in stills from the film are Goldberg [left], Elgrichi [center, on right], and Raniola [right].

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with Gerety & Associates. Her main focus is in the tax arena, working with high wealth individuals and all types of businesses. She also deals with foreign tax issues as well as gift and estate taxes. Previously, she worked for McGladrey & Pullen. She describes herself as a Disney freak who visits Disneyland about three times a year. She also is a crafter who enjoys participating in holiday craft shows. She is married to **Richard Wandtke**, '89 BS Business Administration.

Aurora Buffington, '05 BS Nutrition Sciences, '08 MS Exercise Physiology, has been a health educator for the Southern Nevada Health District since 2008. She focuses on increasing access to healthy food in the community through policy, systems, and environmental change. President of the Nevada Dietetic Association, she is a licensed dietitian. She now is pursuing a doctoral degree in public health at UNLV.

Blake Gross, '05 JD, is a partner with the law firm of Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman. He also serves as a member of the alumni board for UNLV's Boyd School of Law.

Judith Perry, '05 MS Nursing, has been a hospice and palliative nurse practitioner for a large health care system since 2008. She developed the position herself. She lives in Boise, Idaho.

Beth Rosenblum, '05 JD, is a partner with the law office of Mushkin & Rosenblum and serves as a pro tem domestic violence commissioner in the family division of Clark County District Court. A three-time Ironman finisher, she lives in Henderson.

Melissa Rothermel Biernacinski, '06 BA Journalism and Media Studies, celebrated her 10th year at local marketing/public relations firm Imagine Communications in 2015. She is married to **Marek Biernacinski**, '05 BA Communication Studies. He is president and CEO of Words by a Pro, a company that was honored at the Las Vegas Digital Media Awards by being named Best Business Blog for the second year in a row.

Vida Chow, '06 MS Hospitality Administration, is the talent manager for Hyatt Hotels and Resorts Asia Pacific. She describes herself as a foodie and lists yoga, fashion, and style as being among her hobbies. She lives in Hong Kong.

Linasha "Lin" Smith Jerome, '06 BS Liberal Arts, '12 JD, is associate director of admissions and financial aid at the Boyd School of Law. Previously, she served as director of health and family engagement with United Way of Southern Nevada. She is the founder of Ladies Who Dine and its subsidiary, Candles for a Purpose. The first is a philanthropic social society,



Jon Castagnino, '03 BA Communication Studies and BS Sports Injury Management, is an instructor in UNLV's Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies. He launched the "Rebel Report," a student-run TV and social media platform covering UNLV athletics and Las Vegas events. He began his career as a student journalist for the show *UNLVViews*, broadcast from the basement of the Flora Dungan Humanities building, and went on to write and produce for TV news in Wyoming and Texas. Most recently, he worked as a sports anchor/reporter at FOX5 News in Las Vegas.

while the second involves collecting recycled champagne bottles, converting them into scented candles, and donating some of the proceeds from their sales to local charities. Her hobbies include Pilates, traveling, trying new restaurants, and planning events and social gatherings. She and her husband, **Stephen Jerome**, '03 BS Hotel Administration, have three dogs, Vegas, Mr. Big, and Kingston, and a Russian tortoise named Valentino.

Brandon Burk, '07 MFA Theatre Arts, is a professional actor with 25 years of experience. He also has worked as an instructor and coach of acting, dialects, speech, and stage combat for numerous shows on the Las Vegas Strip, at the Nevada Conservatory Theatre, and at the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, as well as with private students since 2004. He formerly was a guest artist and adjunct faculty member at High Point University, artistic director of the Onyx Theatre and Off-Strip Productions, and a member of the acting company at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. He is creating a one-man show titled *Invention*. He lives in Los Angeles.

Adrian Huerta, '07 BS Human Services, is completing his doctoral degree in education at UCLA where he studies college access for under-represented student populations. He recently was awarded the American Educational Research Association's

Minority Dissertation Fellowship to support his final year of graduate studies. He lives in El Monte.

T.J. Milner, '07 BS Business Administration, is a partner at McBride & Milner CPAs. He is a certified public accountant with expertise in tax preparation and planning for small and large business owners. His hobbies include smoking (as in barbecue), golf, softball, bicycling, traveling, and watching UNLV sports. He and his wife, Alyson, have a new baby daughter, Hailey Ann Milner, aka "HAM." The family lives in Henderson.

Darren Paulson, '07 BS Computer Science, is director of telecommunications at UNLV. He began his UNLV career as a student worker, first at the Barrick Museum and then in inventory control. After graduation he became a full-time UNLV employee, working in an IT infrastructure support position. He is married to his high school sweetheart, **Rebecca Arbor Paulson**, '07 BS Computer Science, who works in UNLV's office of information technology. His hobbies include camping, working on the house, driving 4x4s, and playing first person shooters. The couple and their two children live in Logandale.

Pj Perez, '07 BA Journalism and Media Studies, is digital content editor for Caesars Entertainment Corp. where he focuses on content marketing. He also is the bass player for the indie rock band Moonboots, which

released its debut EP in March. He is married to Sara Gorgon, a student in UNLV's MBA program and also director of communications for the Lee Business School.

John DeAvila, Jr., '08 BS Nutrition Science, is a U.S. Air Force veteran with 15 years of experience as a clinical laboratory scientist. He now is studying to be a certified sports nutritionist. He wants to work with athletes to help them with dietary issues. He says he discovered that nutrition is his real passion in life. He hopes to be his own boss someday. Training to compete in triathlons is his hobby.

Erik Kludasch, '08 BA Journalism and Media Studies, '11 BA Philosophy, traveled last summer to Borneo to study model community-based efforts to preserve Bornean species along the Kinabatangan River in Sabah (East Malaysia). A sixth-grade teacher at Victory Prep Academy in Denver, he took the graduate course in pursuit of his master's degree from Miami University's global field program.

Dominique Worthen Braxton, '09 BS Business Administration, is a doctoral candidate in marketing at the University of California, Irvine. She is married to **James Braxton**, '10 BA Communication Studies.

Jeremy Burr, '09 BS Business Administration, recently was promoted to vice president at Valuation Research Corporation where he handles a variety of business valuation services for corporate financial reporting, mark-to-market valuations of private equity and hedge fund's illiquid securities, and tax planning valuations for individuals. His hobbies include squash, snowboarding, rock climbing, comedy shows, and traveling. He and his wife, **Stephanie Beadle Burr**, '08 BA Economics, enjoy good food and wine, movies, and watching UNLV men's basketball games. She also works in the professional service industry. The couple lives in downtown Chicago.

Matthew Cooney, '09 BA Spanish, is a doctoral candidate in the higher education administration program at Ohio's Bowling Green State University. He works in the office of multicultural affairs with academic success programs for racially and ethnically diverse students. Previously, he worked as a senior academic advisor at Florida International University. He earned a master's degree in higher education from Loyola University Chicago.

Jeffrey Lavigne, '09 BA Communication Studies, '11 MA Communication Studies, '15 JD, has joined the litigation department in the Las Vegas office of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. His practice will focus on

commercial litigation and will include assisting business clients in litigation disputes involving trial and arbitration. Previously, he taught public speaking at the College of Southern Nevada. He volunteers with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Southern Nevada.

Christopher Lourdes, '09 BA Interdisciplinary Studies, is general manager of RMF Printing Technologies. His hobbies are traveling, snowboarding, and yoga. He lives in New York, Miami, and Los Angeles.

Alain Monroy, '09 BA Political Science, served six years of active duty with the U.S. Army. He recently transitioned to the corporate sector. He hopes to go back to school next year to begin MBA studies. He lives in Phoenix.

Oliver Morowati, '09 BS Hotel Administration, worked at the Eiffel Tower restaurant while at UNLV and says he was able to learn the business from the inside out, working in every position and making him a better manager for the future. He describes himself as a huge wine geek and tequila aficionado. His hobbies include off roading, rock crawling, hunting, and fishing.

2010s

Shawna Richardson Elliott, '10 BS Recreation & Leisure Studies, '13 MS Hotel Administration, is a class A PGA professional specializing in golf instruction for players of all ages and skill levels. She is a full-time instructor at Rhodes Ranch Golf Club. Additionally, she is certified by the Titleist Performance Institute and the National Academy of Sports Medicine. Dedicated to providing an individualized approach to instruction, she tailors lessons to a student's goals and natural capabilities. Previously, she and her husband **Andrew "Ace" Elliott**, '10 BS Recreation & Leisure Studies, spent two years working at CordeValle Golf Club in Northern California. He is a PGA member who works as an assistant golf professional at the Wynn Golf Club. Their hobby is cheering on the Denver Broncos.

Jason LaFrance, '10 MBA, recently started with KPMG as a senior financial analyst. He lives in Los Angeles.

Panagiotis Tsolis, '10 BS Business Administration, '14 MBA, is a senior industry specialist for VizExplorer. He also is a member of the EMBA Alumni Association Board.

Leisl Carr Childers, '11 PhD History, is an assistant professor of history at the University of Northern Iowa. She also is the author of *The Size of the Risk: Histories of Multiple Use*

NOTES

in the Great Basin (University of Oklahoma Press). In the book she shows how different constituencies worked to fill the presumed "empty space" of the Great Basin with a variety of land-use regimes that overlapped, conflicted, and ultimately harmed the environment and the people who depended on the region for their livelihoods. She looks at the conflicts that arose from the intersection of an ever-increasing number of activities, such as nuclear testing and wild horse preservation, and how Great Basin residents have navigated these conflicts.

Saman Hashtroudi, '11 DDM, is a dentist practicing in Las Vegas.

Megan Hutton, '11 BS Hotel Administration, recently was promoted to general manager of the new **Guy Fieri** ('90 BS Hotel Administration) restaurant, El Burro Borracho, at the Rio All-Suite Resort & Casino. She also is a master's student in UNLV's Harrah College of Hotel Administration and a volunteer in a UNLV mentoring program.

Camille Moody McCue, '11 PhD Curriculum and Instruction, is director of technology innovations for the Adelson Educational Campus. She recently wrote and received funding for a multimillion dollar grant to implement a new technology innovation and integration initiative featuring a 5,000-square-foot coding, maker, and digital media space; one-to-world mobile devices for all students and teachers; and extensive teacher professional development. She recently published her seventh book, a "Dummies Junior" book, *Getting Started with Coding*. Her hobbies are fitness, cooking, writing, and watching basketball. She and her husband, Michael, have two sons, Carson and Ian.

Maria Roncal, '11 BA Journalism and Media Studies, manages the social media presence for the Palms Casino Resort where her work has resulted in up to five times the return on advertising spending and has doubled the resort's Instagram fan base in less than a year. Previously, she worked at SLS Las Vegas, earning local, national, and international marketing awards for its grand opening media strategy, and at Caesars Entertainment where she produced new media content. Her proudest personal accomplishment is losing 50 pounds. Her hobbies include travel blogging, becoming trilingual by learning French, and many types of fitness activities.

Devron Brown, '12 BA Criminal Justice, is attending George Washington University Law School. Previously, he worked on Capitol Hill.

OBITUARIES

Rich Abajian, former UNLV assistant football coach, died Feb. 9 from natural causes. He served as assistant coach from 1977 to 1981. A driving force behind the creation of the Southern Nevada Sports Hall of Fame, he was inducted into the hall in 2008. The general manager and co-owner of Findlay Toyota was a longtime supporter of UNLV sports.

Fred Albrecht, '71 M.Ed Physical Education, former UNLV administrator, creator of the university's alumni relations program, tennis coach, and assistant basketball coach, died Feb. 5 after a long battle with cancer. He worked under seven presidents during his 38-year UNLV career. Albrecht arrived at UNLV as assistant basketball coach in 1970 and retired in 2007 as vice president for university and community relations. Along the way, he served as director of alumni relations, interim athletic director (twice), and executive director of athletics fundraising, and also became the "winningest" coach in UNLV tennis history. He was instrumental in the fundraising for — and the construction of — the Tam Alumni Center. In 2012, he was awarded the UNLV President's Medal and was inducted into the UNLV Athletics Hall of Fame.

Rosemary Anderson, former education professor, died May 19, 2015, in Maryville, Missouri. She taught math education at UNLV from the 1969 until 1983. Much of her research dealt with children's learning of math. She was a graduate of Ball State University in Indiana and the University of Iowa.

Jerry Crawford, emeritus professor of theatre and former dean of the College of Fine Arts, died March 20 in Michigan. A prolific playwright, he taught at UNLV from 1966 until his retirement in 2006. During his 40-year UNLV career he served as chair of the theatre department, founded a graduate playwriting program, and was named a Barrick Distinguished Scholar. For many years he served as a literary seminar director at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. A number of his plays were

Mitch Cain, '13 BA History, has been teaching high school science in Oklahoma City since 2014. He also is pursuing a master's degree in education from Johns Hopkins University. He lives in Edmond.

Denise Cook, '13 MA Sociology, is president of THI Consulting and also is pursuing a doctoral degree in sociology at UNLV. Her research interests include



Abajian, pictured with his wife, Jo Ann Abajian



Albrecht

produced in various theaters from Nevada to New York.

Robert Dodge, emeritus professor of English, died Feb. 25. He taught at UNLV from 1970 until 2013. A Melville scholar, he also was an expert on early American almanac humor. On occasion he would present performances in which he played a character who regaled the audience with "Yankee humor."

Charles Rasmussen, emeritus professor of psychology, died Oct. 26, 2015. A former psychology department chair, he joined the UNLV faculty in 1972 and retired in 2007. The Philadelphia native was a graduate of Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania and received his master and doctoral degrees from the University of Arizona.

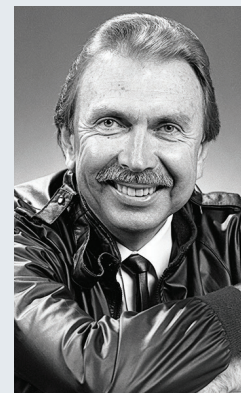
nonprofits, volunteerism, leisure, and culture. She holds a professional in human resources designation from the Human Resources Certification Institute, a certified professional designation from the Society for Human Resources Management, and certified professional coach certification.

Tamara Prouty Day, '13 BA Psychology, has spent the past five

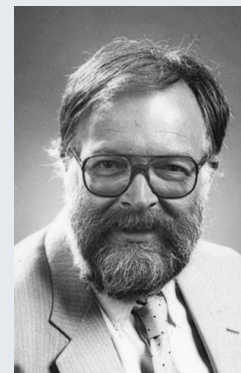


Anderson

years working for the state of Utah as a judicial assistant to juvenile court justices. Previously, she spent more than 12 years working for the court system in Clark County. She says she misses Las Vegas and all it has to offer. She and her husband enjoy camping and hiking. Reading and travel also are among her hobbies. The couple lives in St. George.



Crawford



Dodge

Marjorie Poyser Landron, '13 BA Interdisciplinary Studies, earned a master's degree in social work with a concentration in mental health and a sub-concentration in military and veteran social work from the University of Southern California in 2015. She now is licensed by the state of Nevada as a social worker. She is a clinical social work intern for Mobile Mental Health Services. She lives in Henderson.

Shannon Lee, '13 BS Business Administration, is an accountant for the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe. Her hobbies are running, reading, playing guitar, and watching Runnin' Rebel basketball.

Alex Salvo, '13 BS Hospitality Management, is a casino host at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Tampa, Florida.

Mary Vail, '13 MBA, earned a certificate of social sector leadership from Philanthropy University, an educational initiative powered by Berkeley-Haas. She is a member of the inaugural class and completed seven foundational courses to earn the certification from the eight-week online program. She is the author of *What's Your Philanthropic Footprint?*, a memoir of how she merged a career in public relations with her passion for philanthropy.

Alexander Wood, '13 BS Civil Engineering, works for the national geotechnical engineering firm Terracon Consultants. After working on large projects in the Las Vegas area, including the T-Mobile Arena and the Mandalay Bay Convention Center expansion, he transferred to the Denver office. While in Las Vegas he



Roncal, '11

Vail, '13

spent a number of years running the professional chapter of Engineers Without Borders. He is engaged to **Jocelyn Rangel**, '12 BS Accounting. She is an internal auditor for Western Union. They live in Lakewood.

Jessica Briggs, '14 BS Hotel Administration, is an event coordinator for the Downtown Project, running events out of 11 venues and reaching more than \$1 million in sales in 2015. Previously, she worked as a restaurant supervisor at a lodge in Talkeetna, Alaska. Her hobbies include her dog, video games, and co-ed softball.

Noela Estrada, '14 BA Communication Studies, is an admissions advisor at National University in Henderson. Right after graduation she worked in the food and beverage



Briggs, '14

Smith, '14

industry. She says her new job has been a great change of pace, allowing her to learn new skills and brush up on old ones. A lifelong athlete, she was a member of UNLV's track and field team under coach **Yvonne Wade**. She enjoys attending all types of sporting events, spending time with family and friends, and going to the beach.

Kacilyn Schroeder, '14 BS Business Administration, has been a marketing and communications specialist for enrollment and student services at UNLV since January 2015. From 2011 to 2014 she held many jobs as a student worker, including intramural program assistant, enrollment assistant, Rebel Recruiter, student orientation leader, and marketing and communications assistant.

Sharon Smith, '14 MS Counselor Education, has worked at Seven Hills Behavioral Hospital and as a gospel singer at the House of Blues gospel brunch. Her hobbies include movies, singing, and traveling.

Wendy Yang, '14 BA Economics, is a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley in Los Angeles. She misses UNLV, but enjoys yoga, ballroom dancing, and singing. She lives in San Gabriel.

Beatriz Martinez, '15 Master of Public Administration, joined the Clark County Regional Flood Control District in August 2015 as its public information coordinator. Running and volunteering are her hobbies.

John Jayson Medema, '15 BS Geology, joined Quantum Spatial, the largest geo-spatial science firm in the nation. He recently completed research and development of radiometric correction of 48-band hyperspectral imagery. He is planning to apply to the master of science program at Portland State University in Oregon. Hiking, camping, fishing, and fitness are his hobbies. He lives in Gresham.



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The Cube

Engineers and artists might seem like polar opposites, but just take a look at your dream car, said civil engineering professor Moses Karakouzian: It has to run well *and* look good. With that in mind, he set out to create a piece that showcased the aesthetical side of his discipline.

The Cube — a sculpture in the courtyard of the Thomas T. Beam Engineering Complex — was officially unveiled Dec. 21, 2015. The Cube's six sides represent the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering's disciplines: civil, mechanical, entertainment, construction, and electrical engineering, and computer science.

Creating it became a group effort involving experts in the college's machine shop as well as the College of Fine Arts. Its fabrication took patience and precision. "The holes for the screws had to be within .001 of an inch accuracy," explained Dr. K, as he's known around the

college. Because the machine shop's mission is to serve academics, work had to be scheduled around student projects over the course of a year.

When it was time to build the foundation for the 500-pound sculpture, Dr. K reached out to former students. **Layne Weight**, '03 BS and '08 MS Civil Engineering, now a project manager and structural engineer, helped with the foundation design while **Glen Maxwell**, '02 MS Civil and Environmental Engineering, vice president of Penta Building Group, assisted with labor and excavation work. — Taryn Barnes



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